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Steinbeck Country



**The Salinas Californian
1977 Rodeo
and Progress Edition**

Valley communities face inevitable growth



They went by train from Monterey and down the long Salinas Valley, a grey-and-gold lane between two muscular mountain lines. From the train they could see how the wind blew down the valley, toward the sea, how its dry force bent the grain against the ground until it lay like the coat of a sleek-haired dog, how it drove herds of rolling tumbleweeds toward the valley mouth and how it blew the trees lopsided and streaming until they grew that way. At the little stations, Chualar, Gonzales, and Greenfield, they saw grain teams standing on the road, waiting to store their fat sacks in the warehouses. The train moved beside the dry Salinas River with its broad yellow bed where blue herons stalked disconsolately over the hot sand, searching for water to fish in, and where now and then a grey coyote trotted nervously away, looking back apprehensively at the train; and the mountains continued on with them on either side like huge rough outer tracks for a tremendous juggernaut.

—To A God Unknown
By John Steinbeck

By MYRNA ALVITRE
Californian Staff Writer

The geography and climate remain the same as Steinbeck described them in his 1933 novel, but almost everything else has changed and grown in the Salinas Valley since then, and more of both are as inevitable as taxes in the future.

"We're being swept up in the economic whirlwind of the entire state," King City manager Lee Yarborough says of the growth spurt in the Salinas Valley.

While the overall birth rate is declining, migration into California is on the upswing, and it's being felt in the Valley.

The population of King City rose by nearly 37 per cent in the five years between 1972 and mid-1977. King City was home to 3,800

people in 1972; by early May of this year the number had increased to 5,200.

"If the city continues to grow at that rate in the next five years, we will have more than 6,500 people in the city by 1982," Yarborough says.

Add to that the 600-plus in Pine Canyon, a rural suburb west of King City which is growing, and King City is looking at an area population in excess of 7,500 persons.

While Greenfield and Gonzales recorded slight decreases in population last year, Soledad increased its population by 530 — to 5,400.

Getting ready

The city officials and city councils in south county communities are working to accommodate anticipated growth in the valley.

All four cities are upgrading and expanding sewage treatment facilities.

In Greenfield, the council is postponing approval of more than 100 housing starts pending completion of sewer plant expansion and construction of a new water line. The sewer plant work is underway, and the new water source was guaranteed with the May 31 voter approval of a \$525,000 water bond. However, city manager John Longley says it will be at least 18 months before the new water transmission line and pumping equipment are ready for use.

Bids were opened within the last few weeks for a new water well in Gonzales, and the city is preparing for a \$300,000 revenue bond to expand the sewage system. Last year the city acquired 12 acres adjacent to the sewage treatment plant for expansion of sewer ponds.

Soledad is working toward a new water well which will provide softer water. Expansion of the city sewer system also is contemplated, possibly as a joint SEEDS

See page B4

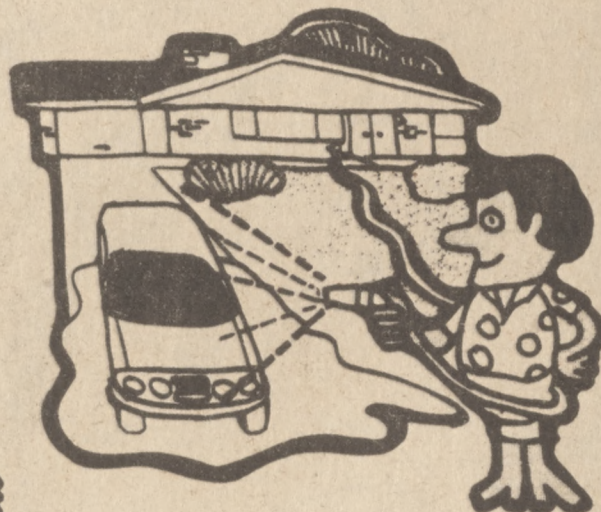
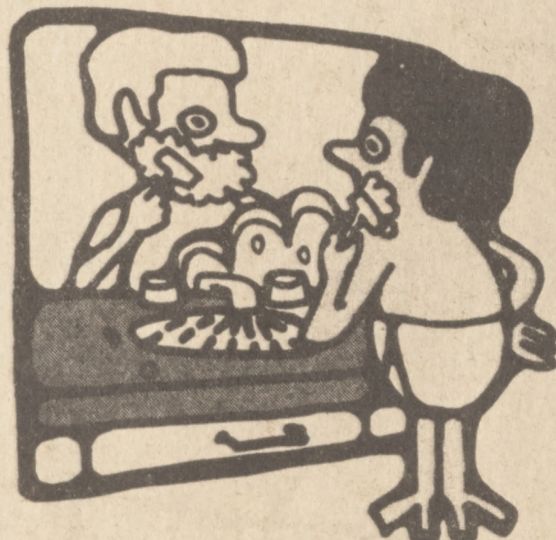
If the forces of growth read this sign in Greenfield, they probably won't pay any attention.

(Californian photo)

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Inside the house, there are savings to be made also. Avoid toilet water waste by not using the toilet as a trash disposal. And, remember, an extra five minutes in the shower could mean another 50 gallons down the drain. Use a moderate stream. Avoid also the "running faucet" when shaving, brushing teeth, peeling and washing vegetables and washing dishes.

Finally, make every wash load count . . . use full loads when washing clothes or dishes.

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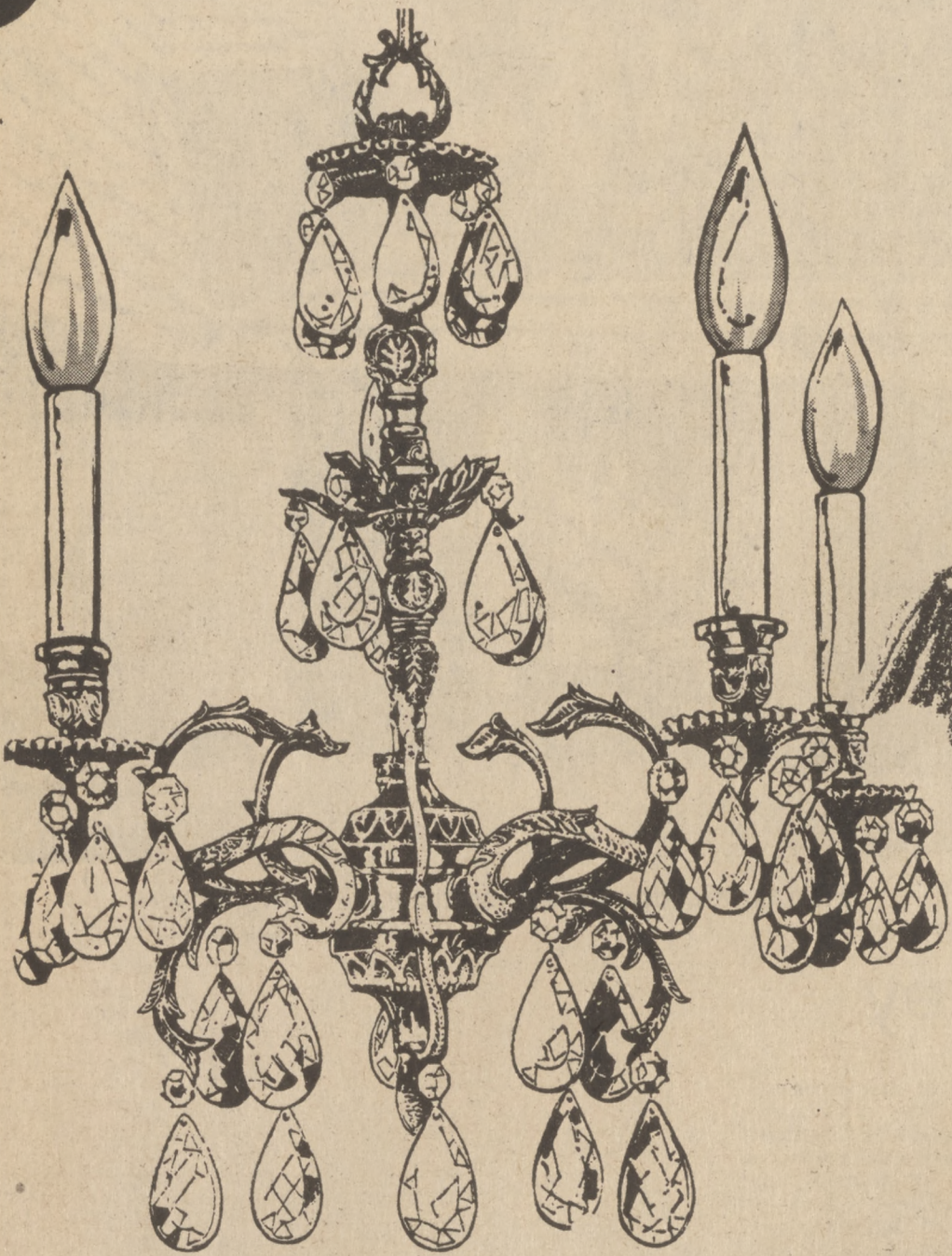
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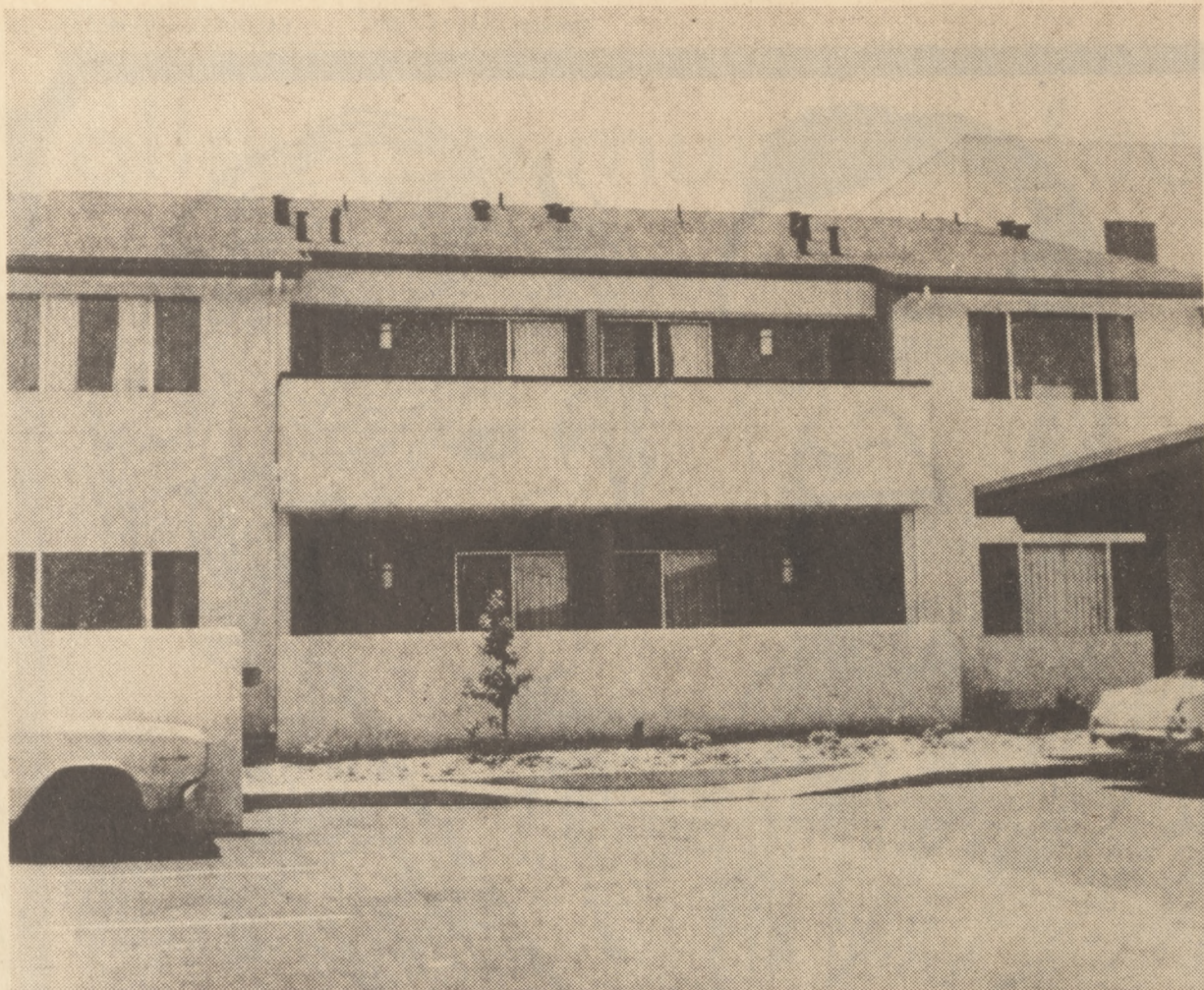
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Senior citizen housing in Gonzales.



Handsome apartment complex in King City.

(Californian photos)

Seeds for growth planted in the Valley

(Continued from page B2)
project with Soledad Correctional Training Facility four miles to the north.

"The most feasible program appears to be for the city to pump its waste water to the correctional facility for treatment and sprinkling on pastureland," Soledad Mayor Jack Francioni explains.

"As cities continue to discharge their sewage into the Salinas River, a nitrate problem has been developing," he adds.

King City is the only one of the four southern Monterey County cities that does not operate a municipal water system. While its water is left to private enterprise to handle, the city is looking toward an expansion of its sewage system, like the other cities.

Because the federal government requires city sewage systems to be self-supporting and generate sufficient funds for future expansion, customers throughout the valley already are, or soon will be, paying higher user charges for the costs of such expansion.

Natural brake

Unlike its neighbors to the north, King City has a natural brake on its growth — lack of available land for construction. But some see this as a benefit.

"We are fortunate to have a built-in growth factor — lack of subdividable land," says Yarbrough. "We either have to rebuild or make use of land within the urban limits of King City."

Gonzales city manager Doug Byrd notes that Gonzales already

has 35 acres allocated for housing between Centennial Park and the Monterey Vineyard Winery.

"We also have the possibility of expanding on the east side of U.S. 101 freeway. Sewer and water lines have been extended in that direction, and there is some land for sale in that area," Byrd says.

David Jinkens, who until June 10 was city manager at Soledad, noted before leaving that the city might do well to consider expanding water and sewer service east toward the hills at some future date.

Balance wanted

But city officials caution that growth, to be successful, must be expanded in all areas, not just in businesses, housing or industry.

"Soledad needs a balanced growth," Jinkens said. "You can't have all homes without business, nor industry without homes."

"In conjunction with expansion we also have to insure city services — utilities, recreation, social service facilities — will expand with the town," cautions Byrd. "Gonzales does not want a housing boom without services."

Noting that Greenfield is one of the fastest growing housing areas in the county, Longley suggests that Greenfield "needs stronger commercial growth."

"The obvious solution is to steer some sort of middle road that will permit the community to develop in a planned fashion with moderate rate of growth commensurate with city and school district capabilities," Longley adds.

Small tax base

Longley emphasizes that

because Greenfield has very little commercial or industrial development and few homes in the \$50,000 to \$100,000 bracket, its sales tax and property tax revenues are below those of other California cities of its size.

"Sales tax revenues in Greenfield are less than half the average per capita amount for cities of this size. We have the lowest assessed value of cities our size in California," Longley says.

Although Greenfield anticipates its first million dollar budget in fiscal 1978, that budget is "tremendously inflated" by grant money from the Economic Development Administration, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Housing and Urban Development and revenue sharing.

"All of our revenue from sales taxes, property taxes, business license fees and court fines goes to support the seven-member police department," Longley explains.

Greenfield hopes to attack more industry and commercial enterprises to the community to broaden its tax base. Toward that end, the city plans to hire an economic development coordinator through the Comprehensive Employment Training Act.

The economic development coordinator's job would be to lure business to Greenfield and create jobs, with the assistance of an economic development committee.

"I believe Greenfield has quite

a bit to offer to businesses and industry. We have an aesthetically pleasing downtown district. We have quality services in the areas of planning and public safety. There is a can-do attitude and a willingness to work with those interested in locating in Greenfield," Longley contends.

Selective

While the community officials in the valley recognize the necessity for broadening tax bases to include industry, they are understandably concerned that care be given to what type of industry moves into the predominantly agricultural area.

Soledad is developing an industrial park at the south end of the city and will soon start a recruitment program to bring new business to town. Gonzales is already the home of a winery, which is expected to expand, packing sheds and produce processors.

Gonzales has experienced one less than satisfactory industrial project, however. The city has learned that the salty wastes from pickle processing does is not necessarily compatible with quality of waste water emanating from the city's sewer system. A pickle plant moved out of town after continued difficulty in meeting city standards.

City managers in the four cities emphasize that while industry is needed, it must be industry of such nature as not to pollute the water, air or sewage system. Light manufacturing or agricultural related industries

GROWTH

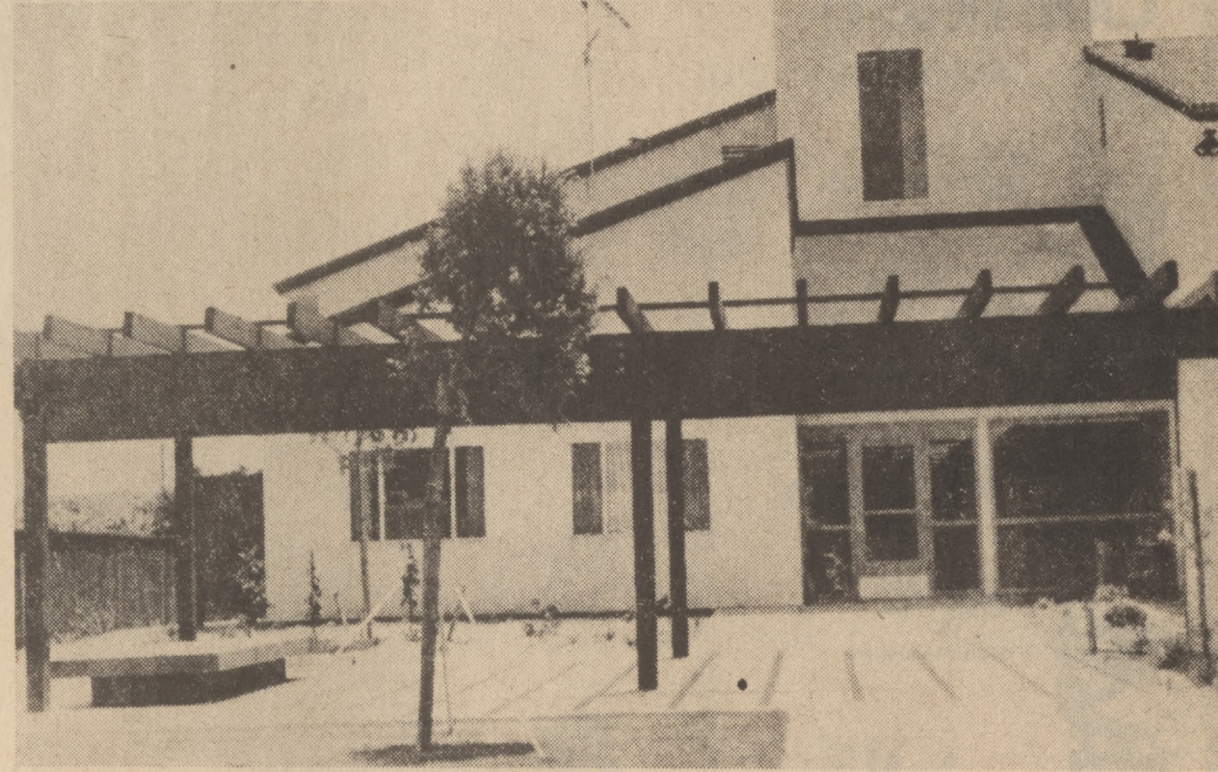
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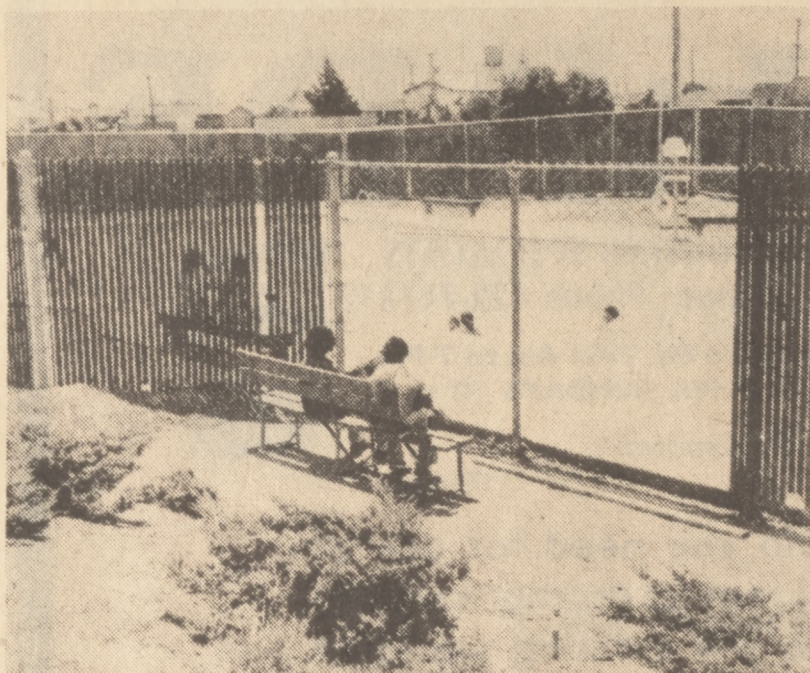
Apartment construction in Greenfield.



King City offers a well-kept golf course for recreation.



Gonzales day care and senior citizens center.



Swimming pool in Gonzales' Centennial Park.



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Pine Canyon fertile land for building

By MYRNA ALVITRE
Californian Staff Writer

KING CITY — "Starvation canyon," "perforated plateau," "path of little bear." "Tranquil countryside."

Dissimilar terms? Yes, but they have all been applied at one time or another to Pine Canyon, the suburb of King City, located two-and-one-half miles west of town.

The community across the Salinas River is experiencing tremendous growth, as developers enlarge its existing subdivisions and contemplate others.

Subdivisions, hilltop homes overlooking the valley, spacious ranches, rugged terrain, wildlife — Pine Canyon, only 10 miles long and a mile wide, when hilltops are included, is all that and more.

Take the Jolon Road turnoff from U.S. 101, turn right at the Pine Canyon store and the traveler is on his way to another world.

The air is warmer — and stiller — as one drives the two-lane road up the canyon. The road becomes narrow about a mile up it, as the houses become further apart, the rolling hills give way to steeper terrain, and squirrels, quail and chipmunks scurry off the road.

Pastures for grazing

Horses and a few head of cattle can be seen grazing in the pastures of Pine Canyon. A few miles up the road, as the turns and twists become more frequent, back off the road on the right sits a two-story white house which looks exactly as it did when first built in 1880.

Pavement ends a short distance later, and the dirt road continues up the canyon, where a deer can be seen darting off at the sound of an approaching



Rooftops spread across Pine Canyon as more homes are built to accommodate more residents.

(Californian photo)

vehicle. The landscape gives the feeling of being far from civilization.

Although the upper canyon remains rural in tone, the bottom of the canyon is the scene of a 107-unit subdivision, with construction starting on another 32 adjacent lots. The Harless Brothers are planning a 252-space mobile home park near Merritt Street and are selling four to eight-acre parcels further up the canyon in the Pine Vista subdivision.

Ribbon-like swaths of dirt roads cut through the hills, and hilltops are dotted with houses and mobile homes.

But as it was in the late 1800s and early 1900s, the people of Pine Canyon go into town to make their livelihood.

"Bankers used to call Pine Canyon 'starvation canyon,'" longtime resident Jim Pettitt recalls. "Everyone had to work in town to keep their ranches going."

The earliest settlers — Felix Ortiz of Spain and Valentine Francioni of Switzerland — established

vineyards at the upper canyon. The Ulrey family, whose 97-year old house still stands occupied, planted vegetables and watermelons.

"The Ulreys brought their vegetables and watermelons into town to sell," Pettitt says, "at least those that kids didn't steal, boys, being boys."

Work in towns

Today, the residents of Pine Canyon, 800 or more of them, work in King City or Greenfield, or are with the military at Fort Hunter Liggett. In fact, some Pine Canyon residents were attracted to the area after serving part of World War II at Hunter Liggett.

According to Mrs. J.A. Mattasci of Greenfield, Hunter Liggett includes part of the land once owned by her cousin, Francioni.

Just as water was a scarce commodity in the early days of Pine Canyon, so it is in the upper canyon today. Water up there has a heavy sulfur content.

The O.M. Holemans, who live in the old Ulrey house, recall that years ago the house stunk when water was run because of the sulfur. Mrs. Holeman's father, Loring Burns, bought the old house and land around it when Mrs. Holeman was a girl, 35 or 40 years ago.

Although a few residents have struck it lucky and found good water on their land, most are dependent on the Little Bear Water Company developed by Cliff Hall 16 years ago.

Hall bought his first Pine Canyon property in 1957 and farmed 100 acres. He sank two wells near the Salinas River four years later and was "almost forced into housing," he said.

Taxes shot up

Once the water system was put in, his property taxes shot up. "Anytime the land valuation goes higher than \$2,000 an acre you can't afford to farm," Hall says.

suburbs for more rural areas,"

Yarborough adds.

"Historically, King City has been a watering hole for the highway traveler. It has lost a lot of that atmosphere with the emergence of the freeway."

'Still vital'

"The downtown area is still vital, because there is no competition at this time. But the downtown will be in dire trouble when competition does come to King City," says Yarborough, whose goal of a redevelopment agency to beautify the business district was walloped at the polls last spring.

"I think that the community in general does not have a no-growth attitude. There is a built-in concept of maintaining and improving the quality of life here," Yarborough continues.

"People in King City, including myself, are concerned about changes brought by growth. We resist change of those things we have grown accustomed to in the community. We react to change when it affects the character of the community in a drastic, sudden or unforeseen manner."

Throughout the Salinas Valley, there is a cognizance that is taking place and that it is necessary to be ready for it if it is going to be orderly and assimilated into the quieter, slower paced life to which this rural still clings.

Quotations from John Steinbeck's novel *To A God Unknown* reprinted with permission of the publisher, The Viking Press.

Growth is inevitable in Valley

(Continued from page B4)

are tops on their lists, along with electronics.

How do the rural cities view the growth in terms of desirability?

"There is sentiment among some people in Greenfield that growth is not desirable. Others feel that growth is necessary. I don't know what the ultimate outcome will be," says Longley.

"The city council is going to have to decide in the near future whether the city will prohibit growth or aim for managed growth. I believe the staff will be recommending a policy somewhere in the middle, that growth be somewhat regulated," he adds.

Longley points out the inherent dangers of following either a no-growth policy or anything goes:

"Unmanaged growth could result in a great increase in the city's housing stock without a commensurate ability to provide needed services. A complete restriction of growth for any appreciable period of time would be detrimental," Longley says.

Jenkins admitted, "Soledad cannot afford not to expand. It has to grow with industry. The city requires a broader tax base."

Jenkins discovered during his three-and-a-half years as Soledad's city manager that "if you can show the people that something will benefit them, they'll go along. My philosophy gained from Soledad's residents is that we have to grow to meet

the needs of the people living in Soledad," Jenkins said.

Orderly growth

For Gonzales, Byrd believes it is necessary to have orderly growth even if that might mean slower growth.

"We want to avoid the situation of having the old section of town deteriorate at the expense of the peripheral areas. We prefer to rehabilitate the older section of the city at the same time other sections of the city are growing. That takes more patience, but we are looking for quality rather than quantity," Byrd says.

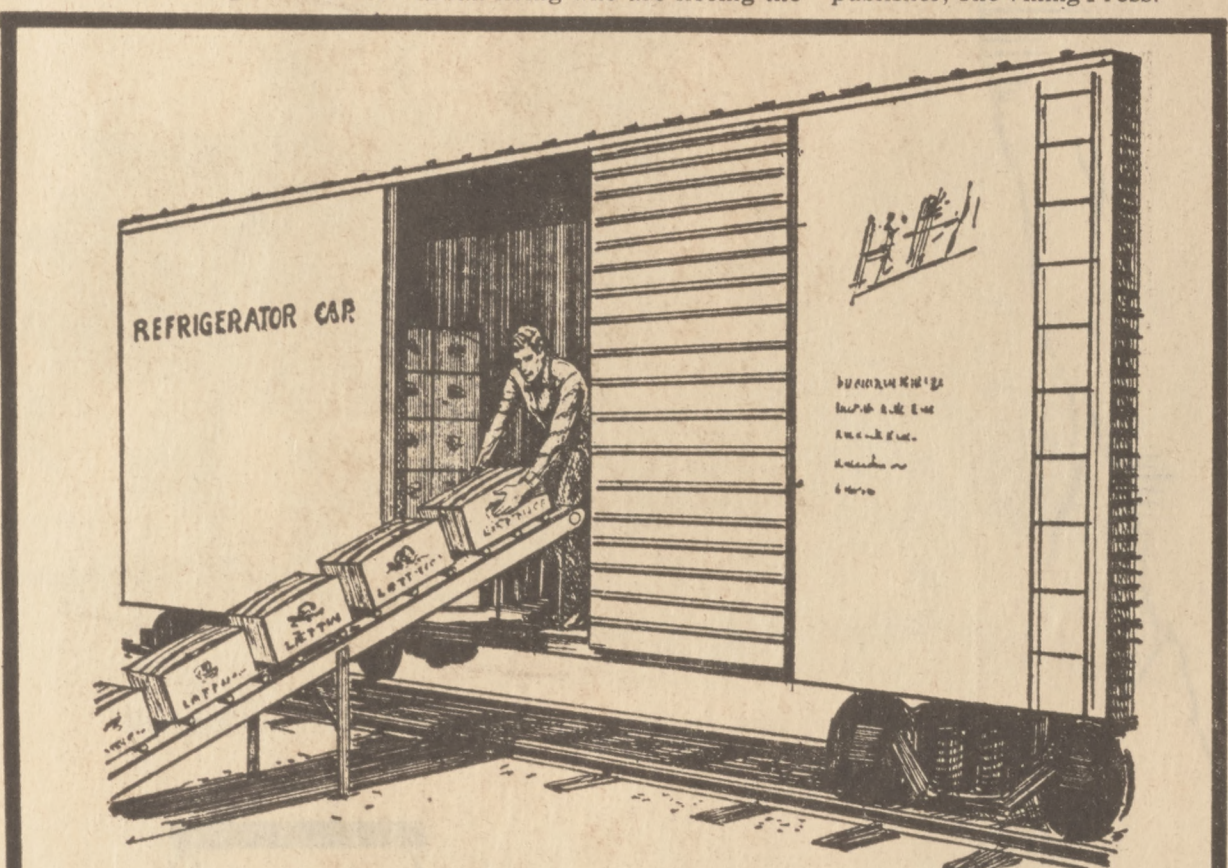
Yarborough foresees more career opportunities opening to King City's youth as the city grows. "The trend will be for more of the young people to stay in King City because more professional jobs will be available," Yarborough says.

Yarborough also believes that more older people will decide to retire in King City.

"That is a phenomenon all over the state. People want to move to smaller communities so they can have a voice in the community," he explains.

"King City is a desirable place to live. We operate one of the most expensive recreation programs for a community of this size. There is golf, swimming, tennis courts, recreational flying and the fairgrounds."

"But the shortage of housing here frustrates this large number of people disenchanted with urban living who are fleeing the



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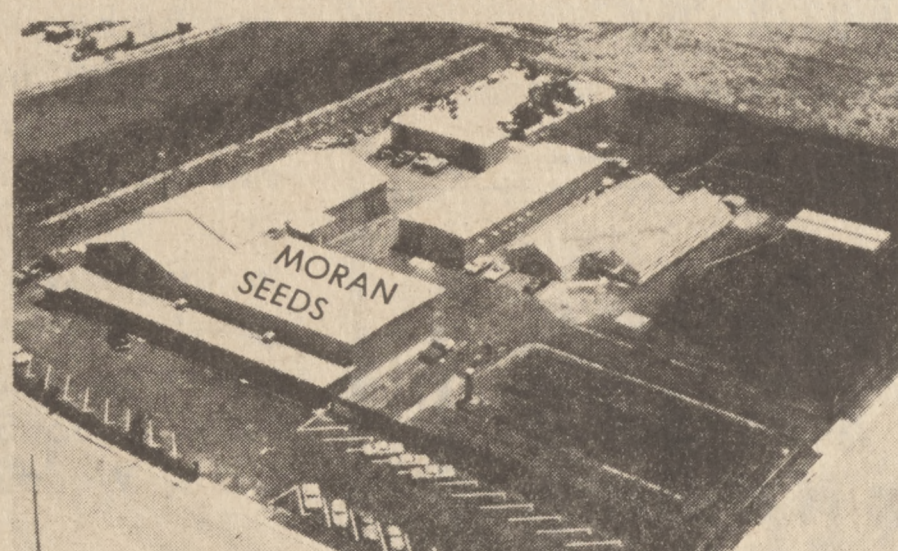
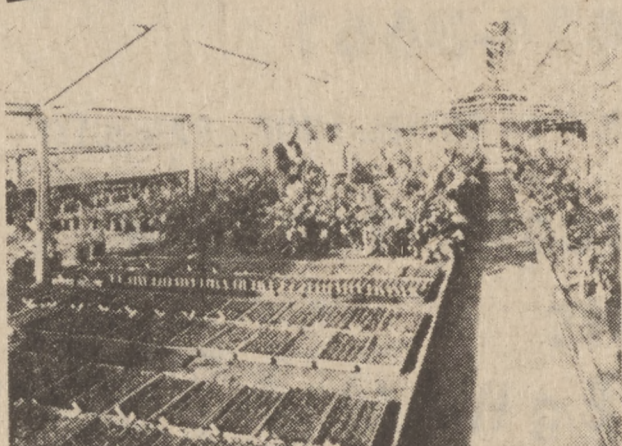
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Of Mice and Men
By John Steinbeck

By MYRNA ALVITRE
Californian Staff Writer

SOLEDAD — The John Gardoni family of Camphora Road lives not far from that spot described by Steinbeck in his 1937 novel.

And they carry forward the legacy of people who have called this area home — farming.

Farming is a year-round family business for the Gardoni family.

"We always have a crop in the ground waiting to be harvested," says Gardoni.

If it isn't lettuce or tomatoes, its carrots or corn for Cornuts Inc., or sugar beets and chili peppers or oats and alfalfa.

Gardoni, his wife, Lorraine, and four of their five children work 1,000 acres of land. There are four fulltime employees on the Gardoni payroll, and quite a few other workers when necessary to handle the weeding, thinning and harvesting chores.

The Gardoni's have a daughter who is working toward a doctorate in pharmacy at the University of the Pacific. Two of their sons, John and David, are students at Hartnell College. Another son, Mike, was graduated from Gonzales Union High School in June, and the youngest boy, Jimmy, will enter the third grade in September.

Along with adding a wife and five children since he began farming on his own 27 years ago, Gardoni has multiplied his land under cultivation tenfold.

When he began farming the Camphora site in 1950, Gardoni planted 100 acres. He owns part of his land and leases a lion's share of today's 1,000 acres.

Like a lot of today's farmers, Gardoni grew up in the country. His folks had a dairy in the Coburn area just north of King City.

"I cut my first hay with a mower when I was nine years old," he recalls.

By the time he'd grown to young manhood and was ready to strike out on his own, Gardoni discovered that dairying was disappearing in the Salinas Valley and row crops were becoming the fertile ground's inhabitants.

As Gardoni sips his coffee while talking at the kitchen table, Mrs. Gardoni folds the stacks of laundry she must do each week to keep a husband and four sons in clean clothes.

Gardoni reflects on the changes he has seen in agriculture during his farming career.

"There have been a lot of technical changes — machinery, herbicides and fertilizers," he says.

Even the method of planting crops has changed. Gardoni explains, "There is more precision in planting now. You no longer have the added costs of extensive thinning to contend with."

During his years as a farmer, Gardoni has witnessed extreme weather conditions, hard freezes, flooding of his land, crop failures and market failures.

Just about every crop has experienced a failure at some time or another, he says.

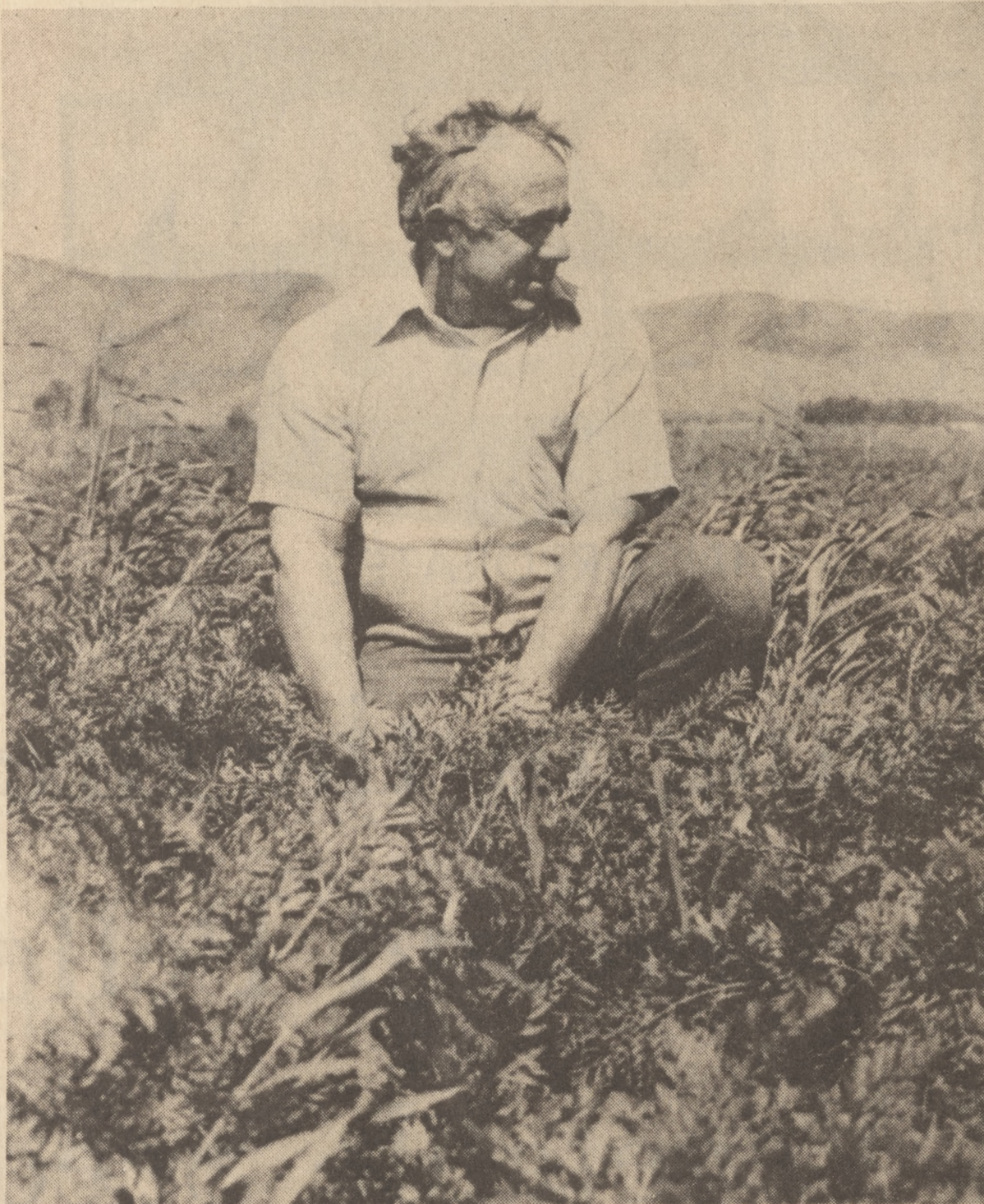
He and Mrs. Gardoni recall the winters and springs when the rains came, and with them, flooding of their land a few miles north of Soledad.

"The Bryant Canyon storm drain has been a big help to us. We got flooded real bad one year before that was put in," Gardoni remembers.

"Things have improved, too, since the city installed its storm drain on the north side of town," he adds.

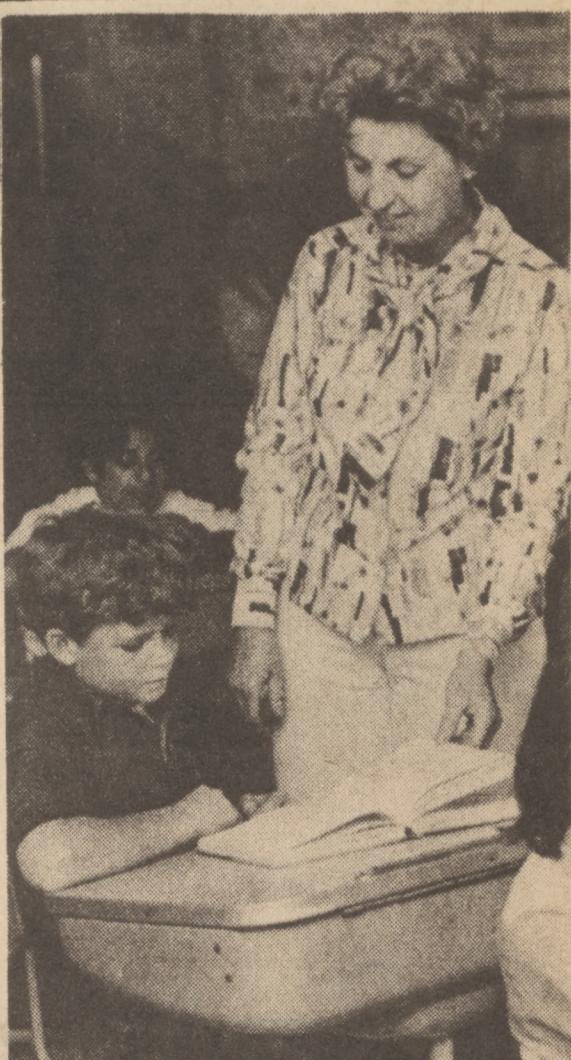
As for market conditions and how they can make or break the farmer, Gardoni explains, "We have to sell when our crops are ready to be harvested. Unlike the manufacturer, the farmer cannot put his crop away on the shelf and save it until another day when the price may be better."

He sells some of his crops under contract with a



John Gardoni inspecting his carrot crop.

(Californian photo)



Supt. Bird with Chualar student.

(Californian photo)

Chualar is small but they like it

By ALAN LECKER
Californian Staff Writer

CHUALAR — Chualar Union Elementary School is looking down the road at its 50th birthday.

The school, located in this roadside town 10 miles south of Salinas, has not changed much, since it opened in 1929, save for new classrooms and an administration office.

Esther Bird has been superintendent of the school since 1948, and enrollment has only increased from 200 to 275.

CHUALAR

See page 11B

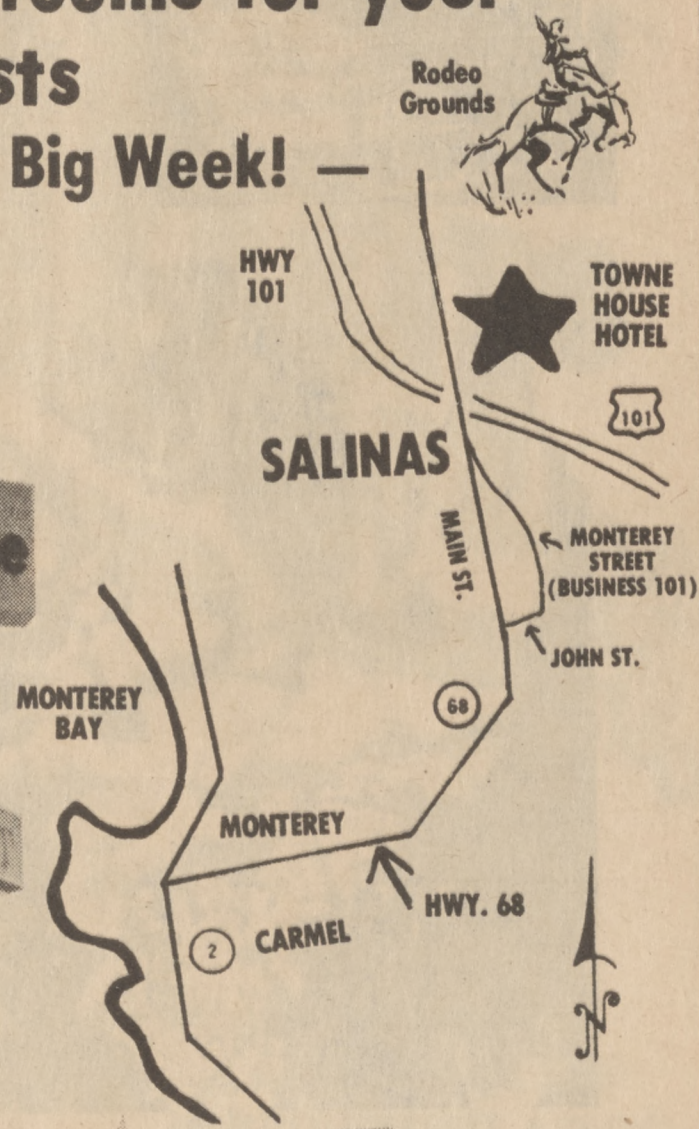
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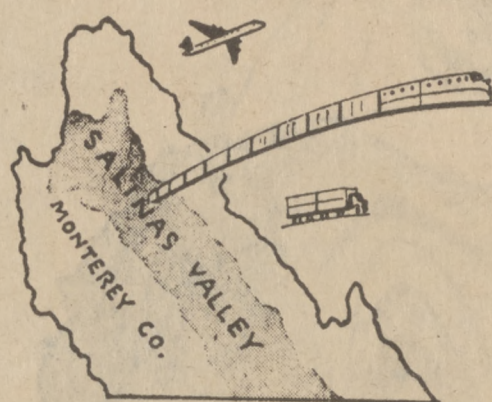


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Gardoni with sons, Mike (left), Jimmy (on tire) and David and tractor.

(Californian photo)

The family business is fulltime farming

(Continued from page B8)

set price paid for each pound or ton produced. Other crops, such as lettuce are sold outright with the buyer paying by the acre regardless of yield.

After a few years of below normal rainfall, the farmers in the Salinas Valley face the prospect of short water supplies in the future.

The Gardonis are convinced that the foresight of a determined group in years past to construct the Nacimiento and San Antonio dams has benefited the valley greatly.

"But," cautions Gardoni, "we should start water conservation practices now. Another dry year could be disastrous."

Gardoni employed foresight on his own a few years ago when he switched from row irrigation to sprinklers.

"We were one of the first in the valley to install a permanent sprinkler system," he says with pride. "We presently have an adequate water supply for our crops. We're doing more sprinkling, which takes less water when row irrigating."

"With the sprinklers, we can achieve more uniform irrigation at less cost," Gardoni claims.

He believes the trend in the last five to 10 years in the valley has been toward more and more sprinkler irrigation.

"You're saving water and doing a better job of irrigating with sprinklers. So naturally you're saving money," he adds.

Gardoni says he and the rest of the family have their specialties. David, who just finished his first year at Hartnell, likes to handle the cutting, baling and hauling of hay.

Mechanical and maintenance aspects of farming are a favorite of Mike, who would like to attend the Universal Technical Institute at Phoenix, Ariz.

To Mrs. Gardoni, in addition to keeping the family clean and fed, goes the paperwork and bookkeeping.

In addition to the customary kitchen appliances and utensils, go a typewriter and two-drawer file

cabinet for payroll records, government forms and insurance papers.

"It takes a good five days per month to do the record keeping," Mrs. Gardoni says. She has to figure out unemployment insurance deductions and the like, although farmworkers do not yet have income tax deductions taken from their pay.

The Gardoni family through the years has been active in 4-H. The three boys have graduated from 4-H to Future Farmers of America activities and Gardoni is a sugar beet project leader in 4-H. David and John have both served on the Salinas Valley Fair's junior fairboard.

Gardoni is a trustee on the Soledad Union School District board of trustees, and helps coach Pony League baseball in which young Jimmy participates.

What about vacations?

"Vacations? What are they?" asks Mrs. Gardoni.

"We get a little break during the rainy season," he replies.

Would Gardoni want to see his boys go into farming? "My concern is that the kids get a good education. If they want to go into farming, fine," he answers.

But he does not foresee his sons, or practically anyone else's, starting up farms of their own.

"The outlook for young people in farming is almost impossible. There are the high interest rates on loans needed to buy land. There are the high costs of equipment, labor, utilities, fertilizers and seeds. Alfalfa seed, which sold for 40 to 50 cents a pound four or five years ago, now costs \$1.75 a pound," says Gardoni in one of his rare lengthy exchanges.

With all of its ups and downs, is he still glad he chose farming as a way of life?

"Yes, it's all I know," he replies quietly.

Quotations from John Steinbeck's novel "Of Mice and Men" used with permission of the publisher, The Viking Press, Inc.

Homes keep sprouting out in Pine Canyon

(Continued from page B6)

"Property prices have no rhyme or reason," says real estate man John Buttgerieit. "There are 2½ acre parcels selling for \$15,000 and subdivision acreage selling for up to \$13,000 per acre," he notes.

Building sites of four to eight acres each in the new Pine Vista subdivision are being sold for \$20,000 per lot. Houses, too, have escalated in price. When Pine Canyon Royal Estates opened 13 years ago, a buyer could purchase a house for \$15,000. Today, they sell for \$40,000 to \$50,000.

Why do people select Pine Canyon as their place of residence when the nearest corner store is anywhere from a half-mile to 10 miles away?

Independence

"I control my own situation," answers Dr. Edward Ballengue, who moved his wife and two daughters 7½ miles up the canyon 12 years ago. "We have wilderness, and more private living here."

Although there has been a lot more construction in the canyon in the past three years, Ballengue and his family are still a quarter mile from their nearest

neighbors. And the neighbors aren't likely to get much closer. The Ballengues own the property on both sides of the road and a quarter mile in either direction from their home.

"I'm so independent, I have my own fire truck and skip load tractor to use if the roads are blocked by snow," says Ballengue, a King City dentist.

And the upper canyon can be snowed in during a cold winter.

Pine Canyon residents last year formed their own volunteer fire department after the state division of forestry was forced to cancel fire protection service because of new laws. The forestry personnel trained the volunteers.

"You have to like living in the country to be happy here," says Mrs. Albert Oliveira, whose family has built atop a hill. She finds life in Pine Canyon "just super." Mrs. Oliveira lists as advantages, the weather, space for hiking and horseback riding and vistas to put on canvas, which she as an outdoors person and artist enjoys.

Among the reasons prospective buyers give Buttgerieit for wanting property in Pine Canyon, are

less wind than in town, warmer temperatures and someplace to keep a horse.

"King City is still a rural community and there are people who still like living in the country," says Buttgerieit.

Some drawbacks

But along with the advantages go some disadvantages. Mrs. Oliveira said that mothers of active children find themselves serving as chauffeurs — driving their youngsters to dance lessons, 4-H meetings, school activities and such, all of which are located across the river in King City.

Pine Canyon many years ago boasted its own schoolhouse on what is now the Ballengue property. The one-room schoolhouse was set in a small clearing and the children, in grades one through eight, played in a small play area on a nearby knoll, recalls Mrs. Albert Rist. She, her brothers and sisters, walked three miles each way along the country road to reach the schoolhouse when they were children.

Now children are bused to King City to attend the grammar schools and high school. A school planning

committee and the school board earlier this year rejected the idea of building a school in Pine Canyon, and elected instead to add to existing Santa Lucia School and seek a new school site in town, to alleviate crowded classrooms.

While most of the people in Pine Canyon enjoy the feeling of country living, there is at least one former Pine Canyon resident who would never go back.

Mrs. Rist's parents, the C.M. Brownlee's came to Pine Canyon from Chicago when they were offered a land claim.

"My father had an apple orchard, and also drove a hay bailer. I believe he took the land as a claim and he was always sorry that he did. In later years, he and mother moved to Salinas where he started an insurance business," recalled Mrs. Rist.

"Royal Estates was nothing but a grain field then, some 60 years ago," said the King City resident. "Now there is a house on almost every hill."

Mrs. Rist added, "I don't think any of my parent's children have any fond memories of Pine Canyon. It was just hard work and dust — the dirtiest dust anyone ever had."

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Chualar School likes its size



Chualar School hasn't changed much since it opened in 1929.

(Californian photo)

(Continued from page B8)

The students mainly come from families involved in farm labor or some other aspect of agriculture.

In fact, the school has one of the most mobile student populations in the state, ranking in the top one per cent.

Mrs. Bird worked for two years in the Alisal Union School District before taking over as superintendent.

She likes to quip, "I was born in Salinas and made it all the way to Chualar."

Mrs. Bird enjoys working in a small district even though it has unique problems.

"In a small district you get to know everybody," she says. "Everything — good or bad — you deal with on a face-to-face basis."

"There are rewards being in a small district. I have been fortunate. We have a good staff. People are very supportive of this school."

Substitute

The school has 13 teachers, three of them involved in special education programs, so Mrs. Bird often finds herself back in the classroom as a temporary substitute.

"If somebody becomes ill, you have to be able to take over," she says. "When I started I did most of the substituting. But I don't have the time anymore. I enjoy it. It shows you the things teachers face."

Mrs. Bird says the size also allows more flexibility in planning student activities.

"Here we're free to do things," she explains. "We try to do a lot for our children, try to take them places so they know what it's like to go to the museum, to go to the courthouse to see a trial."

On the other hand, having a small staff can present problems. Mrs. Bird says the school district, while smaller than most, is faced with the same amount of paperwork for special programs. The administration is often swamped with federal and state forms, she says.

Moving students

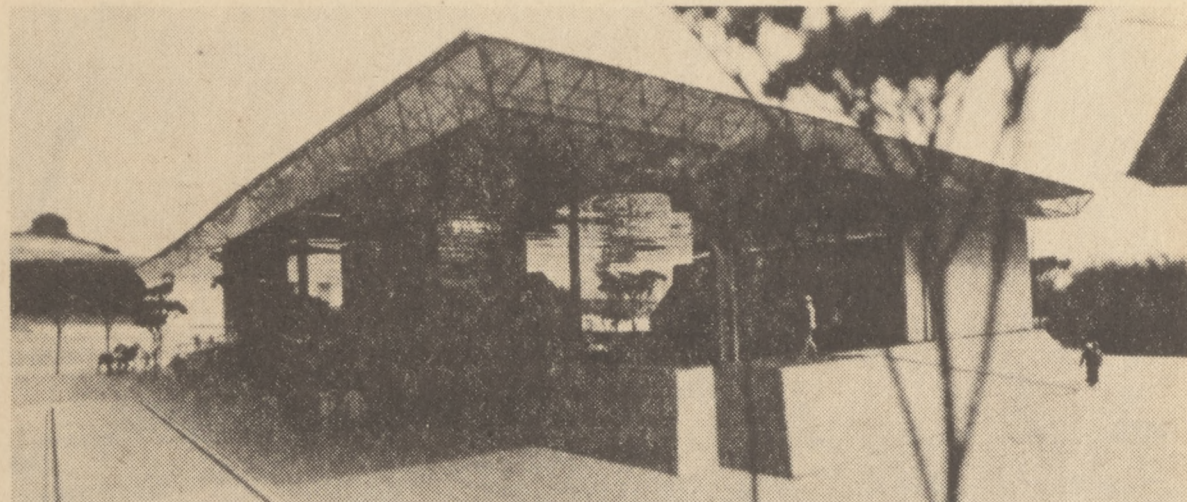
Also, it is harder to give students a continuing education when they are regularly moving in and out of the district.

"That makes it difficult especially with the limited English speaking ones," she says. "They're gone for two or three months and maybe won't go to school. When they come back, they're not where the other students are and sometimes they've regressed."

And it is hard to plan the district's \$500,000 budget and determine whether this year's \$1.56 tax rate will remain stable with a fluctuating student population. State aid is based on the average daily attendance figures, which often varies in the Chualar district.

"One big family moves and it changes your tax rate," Mrs. Bird says.

The school was built at 24285 Lincoln Street in 1928. It was opened to students in 1929. Two newer buildings have been added to the site.



Scale model of proposed ag museum which will house exhibits.

Valley ag heritage will have home

A large chunk of the Salinas Valley's agricultural heritage will one day be on display in King City. You'll be able to see it in the proposed Salinas Valley Agricultural Museum.

The museum will be "a little unique," predicts Earl Smith, Monterey County's director of parks. "It's not something you'll find every day."

As envisioned, still in the planning stages, it will hold an old farm house, and barn, and a lot of dry farming equipment unique to the Salinas Valley. Genuine relics, most of the equipment is no longer used, Smith says.

In addition, the county hopes to have a pictorial presentation of the Salinas Valley — its people, and its history.

The museum building will be surrounded by an eight foot beam with 200 foot by 100 foot walls. It will be located in the county's new San Lorenzo Regional Park.

Smith says the county expects to spend \$750,000 on the museum, although that cost could be reduced if the county can get some grants or other sources of private funding.

The museum could be opened as soon as 1980. Smith says it "will be the highlight of the park."

Between the 1870s and the 1940s most of the Salinas Valley was engaged in dry farming. Consequently most of the equipment will be from that era.

"You're not looking at ordinary types of farming equipment," Smith says. "You'll be looking at pieces that are unique to the Salinas Valley."

Already, Smith says, "We probably have enough (equipment) to fill the building."

Smith also wants to get some presentations about the old Salinas Valley farming families in the museum.

"We don't want to make it a cold, sterile, impersonal look at old machinery," he says.

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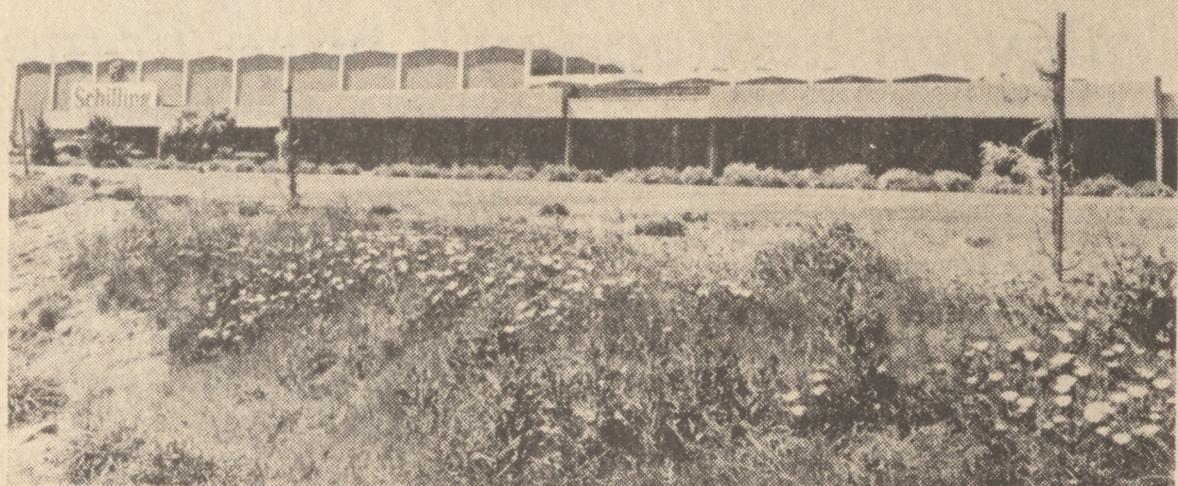
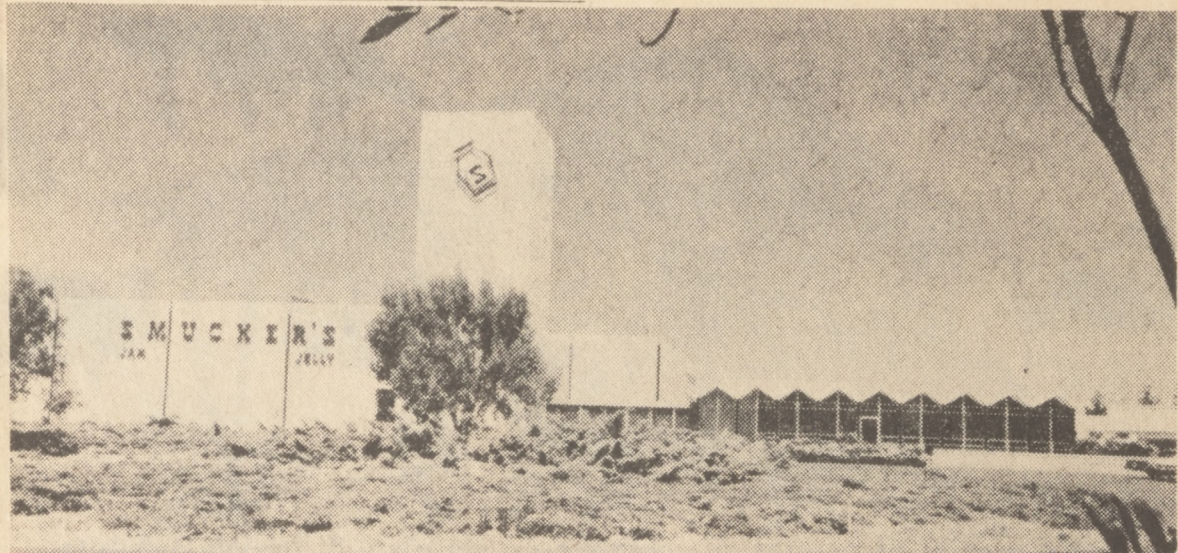
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From the top, Smucker's, Schilling and Nestle plants in Salinas.

(Californian photos)

More than produce produced in Salinas

By RICK RODRIGUEZ
Californian Staff Writer

When you eat a candy bar, buy new tires, flip a light switch, add spices to food or spread jelly on bread, there's a chance you're using goods manufactured in Salinas.

While agriculture has been the core of Salinas Valley industry, manufacturing of non-agricultural products has established a firm base as well.

More than 5,000 persons are employed in non-agricultural related manufacturing industry in the Salinas area.

Among ten of the bigger manufacturers in Salinas, the largest is the Firestone Tire & Rubber Co. plant located off of U.S. 101 south of Salinas.

Approximately 1,500 persons are employed at the Salinas plant which produced more than two million passenger car and truck tires in 1976, ranging in variety from the conventional bias-ply to the steel-belted radial tires.

In 1976, the Salinas Firestone plant's payroll was \$14.1 million. According to Firestone public relations man Bob Troyer of the home office in Akron, Ohio, another \$7.3 million was spent for purchase of local goods and services.

Troyer notes the Salinas plant is one of Firestone's largest among its 16 throughout the U.S. Tires from the Salinas plant were shipped to customers in 25 states in 1976.

The plant, which opened in 1963, is in the midst of a multi-million dollar warehouse expansion. The 300,000 square-foot warehouse addition will approximately double storage capacity. A highly-automated conveyor system will be built into the warehouse. Construction began in January and is

scheduled to be completed this year.

Kaiser

The "white mountain" northeast of Salinas is Kaiser Refractories dolomite plant, one of two Kaiser plants in the area.

The dolomite plant off of Old Stage Road — called Kaiser's Natividad plant — paired with its Moss Landing plant to contribute approximately \$33 million to the local economy in 1976.

Of that total, about \$9.2 million was paid to 410 employees in salaries while the plants used about \$16.4 million in supplies, utilities and services. Another \$6.7 million was generated in freight charges.

The Kaiser Refractories produce dolomite, seawater magnesite, refractory brick and specialty products. Refractory brick and specialties are used to form the linings of high-

See page B14



Peter Paul candy plant's grounds.

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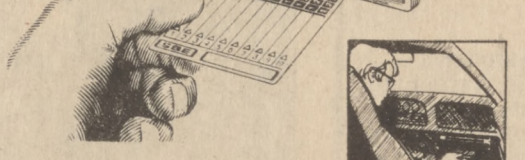
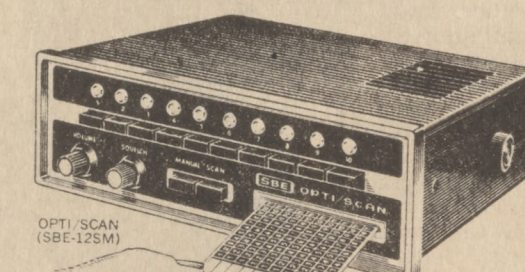
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Salinas plants produce plenty

(Continued from page B12)

temperature furnaces operated by metals, cement, glass and other industries.

Kaiser Refractories own and operate ten manufacturing plants in North America and have holdings in four others overseas.

Peter Paul

Mounds, Almond Joy, Caravelle and Powerhouse candy bars are made at the Salinas plant of Peter Paul, Inc., located at 1400 Abbott St.

The plant employs from 150 to 175 workers with a weekly payroll of from \$35,000 to \$40,000.

Production at the plant ranges from 70,000 pounds to 100,000 pounds daily, according to Don Gendreau, the plant's production superintendent. Chocolate for the candy is purchased in 10-pound slabs from San Francisco Bay area suppliers. About 500,000 pounds of chocolate are used a month.

Gendreau says the Salinas plant may be making Peter Paul's "No Jelly" peanut butter bar in the near future as well.

Plans to install liquid chocolate tanks and increase warehouse storage are on the drawing boards, Gendreau adds. Candy from the Salinas plant is distributed by common carrier to seven western states.

The Salinas plant is about 150,000 square feet and was built in 1965. Home office for Peter Paul is Nagatuck, Conn.

Nestle

The sweet smell resembling homemade brownies which permeates the air off of East Blanco Road is part of the processing of the cocoa bean at the Nestle Co. Inc. plant.

Nestle's Crunch, plain and almond bars, chocolate Quik beverage mix, fine chocolate coatings and six-ounce and 12-ounce packages of semi-sweet morsels are produced at the Salinas plant.

Employment at the plant fluctuates, according to plant manager D.B. Husted. Current employment is about 140 and the plant has topped 240.

The Salinas Nestle plant was built in 1961 and expanded in 1964.

Smucker

The sweet tooth in Salinas area industries also includes the J.M. Smucker Co. plant at 1275 Hansen St.

The Salinas plant employs 132 persons at present. Plant manager Homer Ramseyer says that employment is pretty stable all year around.

Jams, jellies, ice cream toppings and fruit syrups are distributed from the Salinas plant to 11 western states. The products are marketed under the Smucker's and Mary Ellen labels. The Salinas plant also manufactures single-service restaurant jam and jelly packets.

The plant was opened in January, 1961, and has "very definitely expanded," Ramseyer notes, including a 30,000 square foot warehouse expansion in 1964. There are no plans for future expansion.

Home base for Smucker Co. is Orrville, Ohio. The Smucker Co. also has a farm products division and cold storage facilities in Watsonville.

Schilling

The Salinas plant of the Schilling division of McCormick & Co., marked its tenth anniversary at its 1311 Schilling Place address in April.

Employment at the plant has doubled in the ten years to about

500 with an annual payroll of \$6 million.

The number of food items produced at the plant has grown from 350 to 500. Included in the production are about 90 kinds of spices, about 50 mix products, flavoring extracts, food coloring and cake decorating items.

The Salinas plant has grown from less than 300,000 square feet to about 500,000.

More than 80 per cent of the spices and flavoring used at the Salinas plant are imported from the East Indies, Asia, South America, Africa and Europe. Schilling's uses only one locally grown product, parsley.

Kuhlman

Kuhlman Electric Co., a division of Kuhlman Corp. based in Birmingham, Mich., employs about 185 persons in its manufacturing of high voltage distribution transformers.

The plant, located at 1056 Pellet Ave., has an annual payroll of more than \$2 million, according to plant manager Gus McDonald.

Located on a six-acre site with 100,000 square feet of building space, the plant produces \$1.7 million worth of distribution transformers each month.

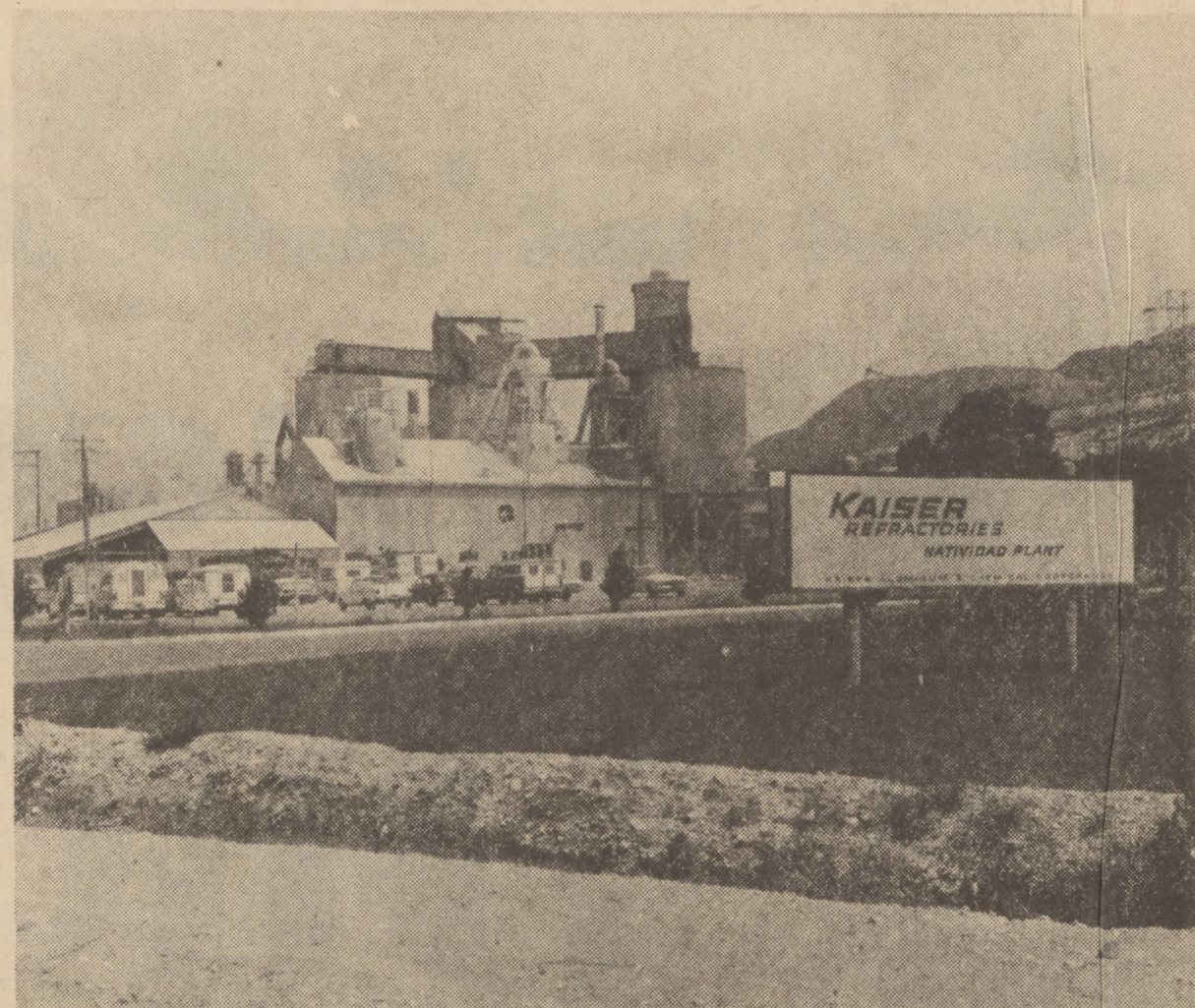
McDonald says that the company is investigating possible expansion. And as far as the demand for distribution transformers, "business is looking great," he says.

Hoerner Waldorf

Hoerner Waldorf Corp., which manufactures corrugated containers primarily used for produce shipping, is a division of Champion International, which is home-based in St. Paul, Minn.

The plant, located at 1078 Merrill St., employs about 170 persons, about 30 of whom are laid off during winters.

Champion International has 66



Kaiser Refractories Natividad Plant where they mine dolomite.

plants nationwide, 45 of which produce containers. Hoerner-Waldorf merged with Champion in February.

GIMCO

The Gabilan Iron and Machine Co., known as GIMCO, is a custom manufacturer which serves all of the area's industries.

GIMCO is a locally-owned and operated shop at 1276 Abbott St., employing about 40 welders,

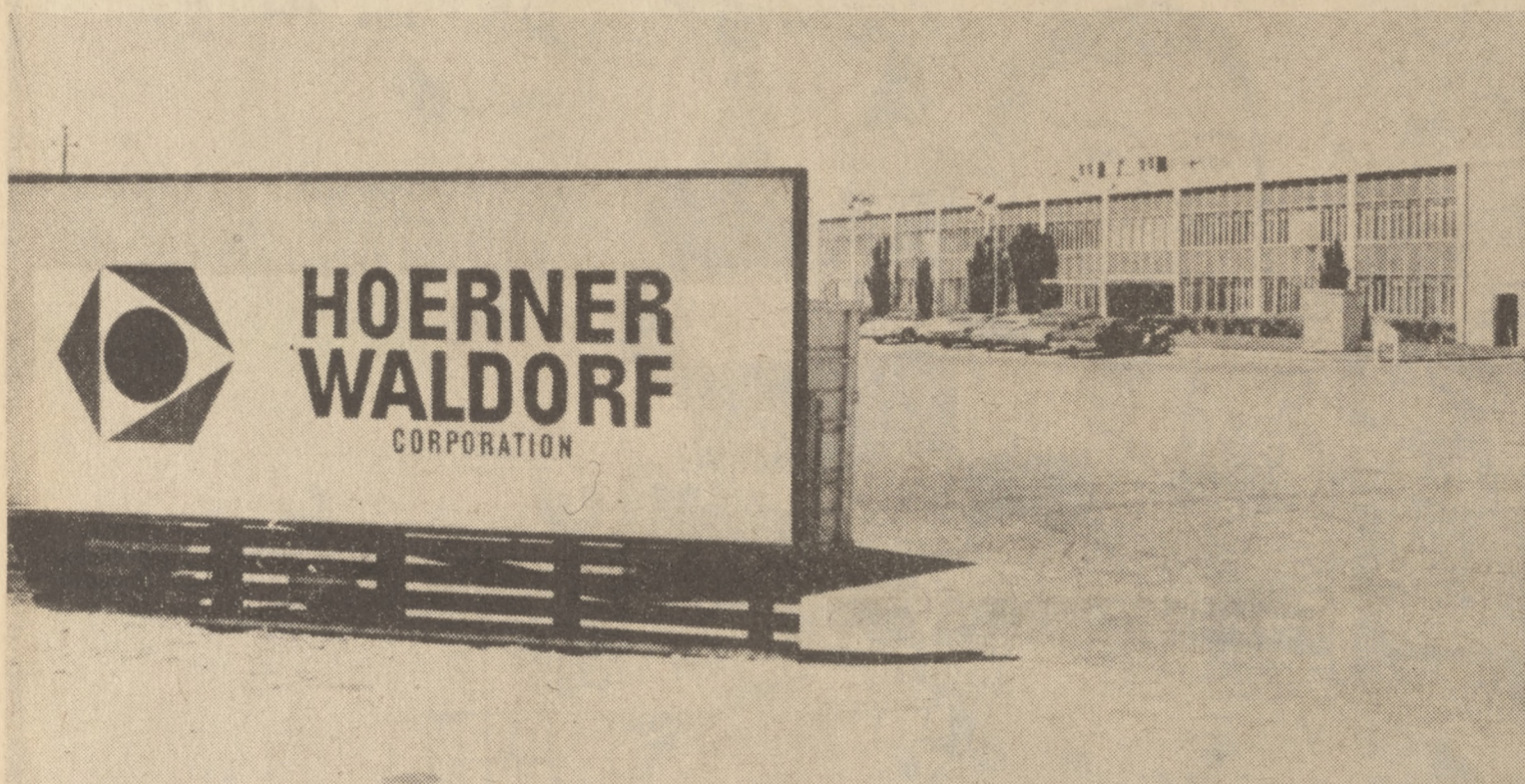
fabricators and machinists. What started out as a three-man operation in 1946, has grown to include an annual payroll of more than \$500,000.

Co-owner Paul Bickel says that GIMCO serves both manufacturing and food processing industries, and "we do a considerable amount of work in custom agriculture equipment. This may or may not include designing."

Cochran Western

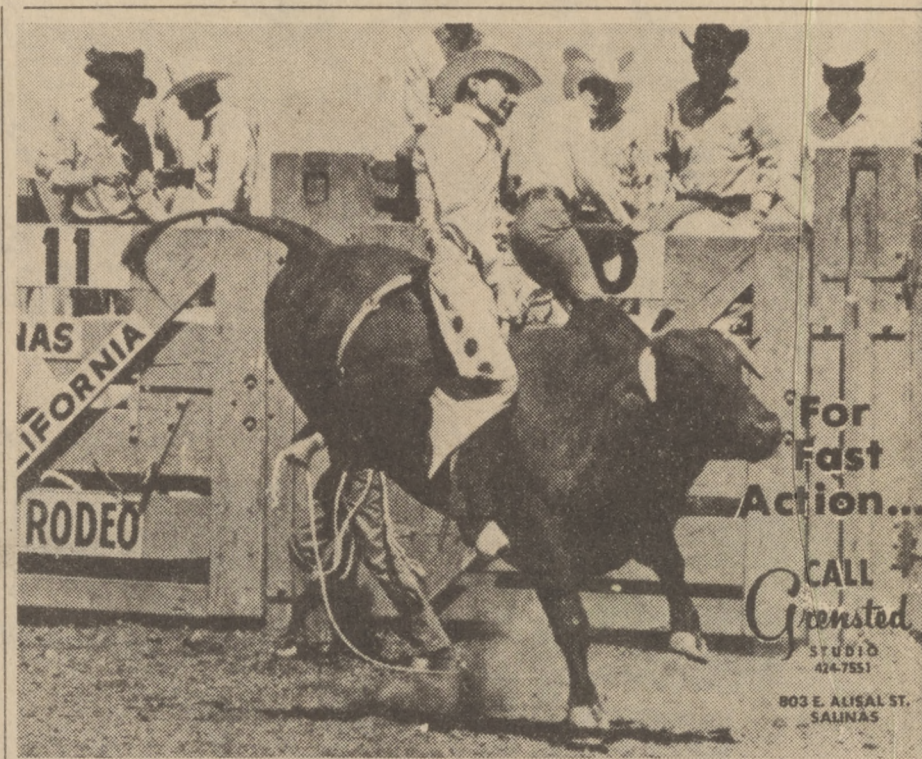
The Cochran Western Corp. plant, located at 1215 Hansen St., assembles airline ground equipment, including conveyors and mobile platforms.

A subsidiary of Western Gear Corp. based in Los Angeles, the Salinas plant employs about 155 persons. The airline ground equipment is fabricated entirely at the Salinas plant.



Entrance to Hoerner Waldorf container factory.

(California photos)





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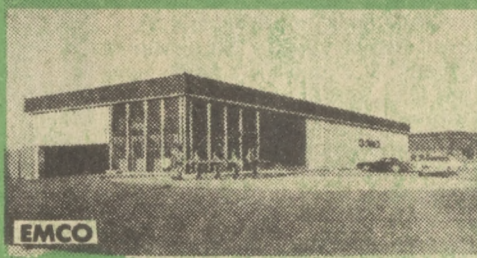
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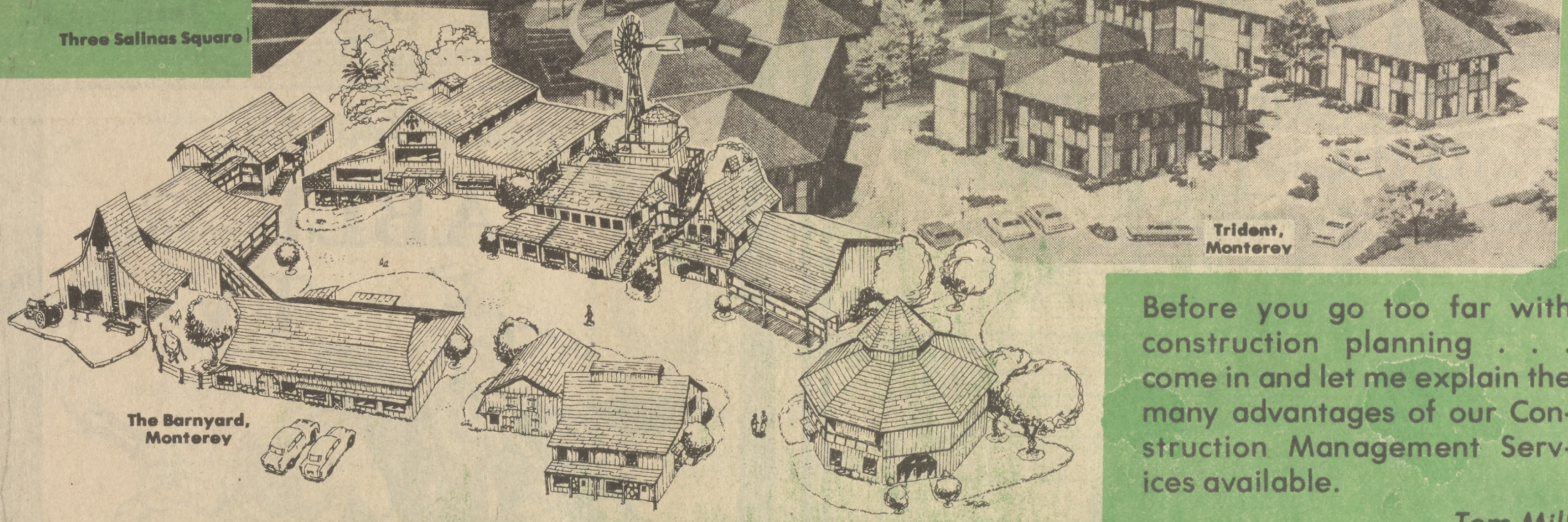
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Young merchants fill stores in Oldtown

By TOM LEYDE
Californian Staff Writer

Don't jump to any conclusions about Salinas' Old Town Merchants Assn.

And don't be fooled by that word "old" in the Association's title. There is a healthy percentage of young merchants and businessmen among the group's 200-plus membership.

The exact percentage has not been determined by the group. But Steve McCarter, the group's president, says more young members are appearing at the association's business meetings all the time.

"At our meetings we notice more and more of the younger guys showing up and it's kind of heartening, to tell the truth. We hope it's a trend . . . McCarter says.

Among those younger members, McCarter has observed, are sons of long-time association members. One of them is Butch Ariano, who owns and operates Peninsula Arts and Crafts, 225 Main St.

Ariano's father, Vern Ariano, owns Peninsula Office Equipment, 213 Main St., along with partner Bob Bello.

The junior Ariano has owned his arts and crafts supply business for six years. Graduated from Chico State College with an art degree in 1970, Ariano says his father and Bello produced the idea of an arts and crafts supply store in the building they own (which now houses the store).

Own Boss
Ariano, who attended local schools, including Hartnell College, says he enjoys being his

own boss, even though it means working six and sometimes seven days a week.

Besides arts and crafts supplies, the 27-year-old shop owner specializes in picture framing.

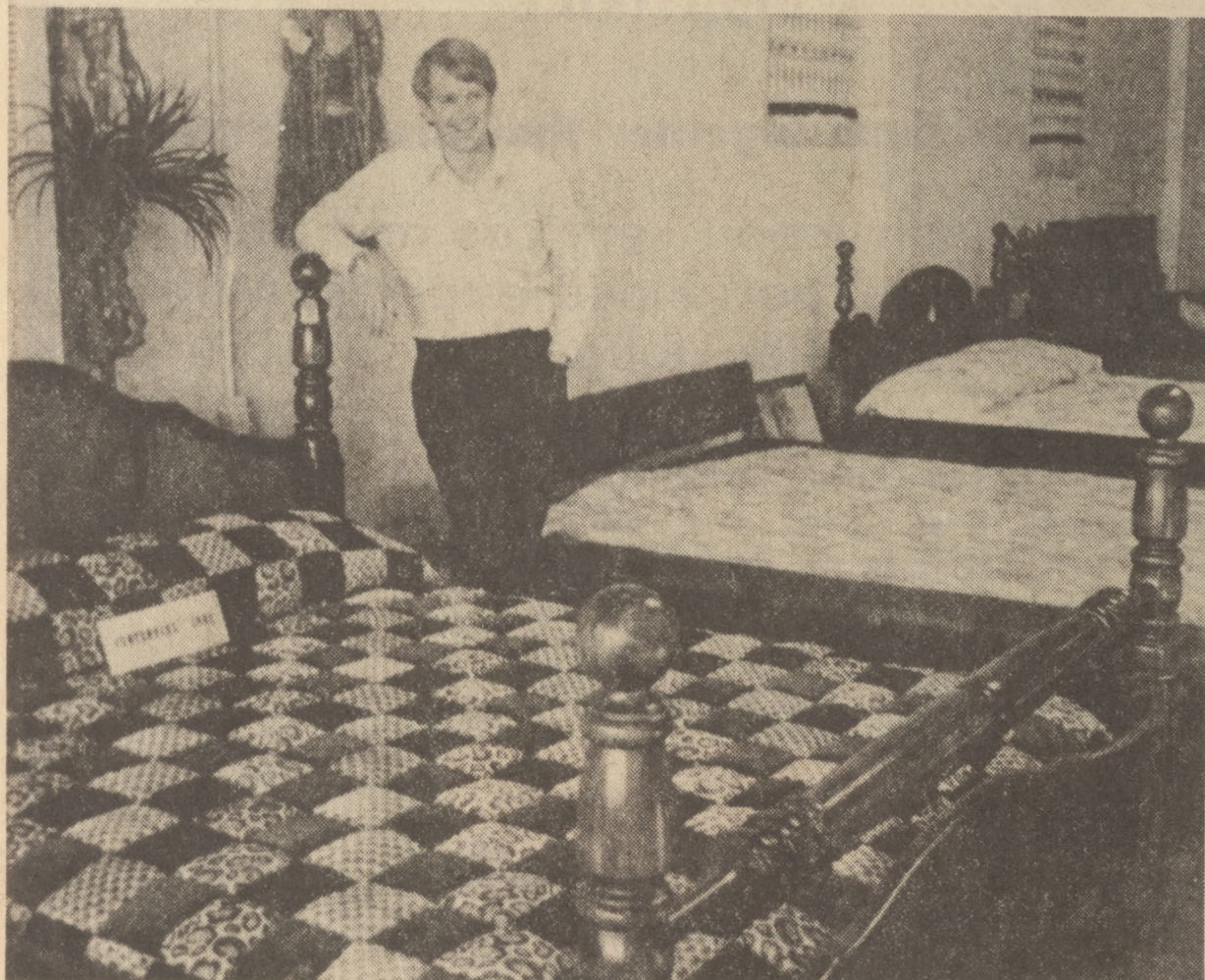
Being one's own boss, Ariano says, means "you can work at your own pace. It means a little more to you. It makes you care a little bit more about what you're doing . . .

"It's nice doing things for other people," Ariano says. "It's more fun than it is work . . ."

One of the youngest Old Town Merchants Assn. members is 23-year-old Roger Floyd, half owner of Lobeck & Floyd Gift Stall in the Off Main building.

A 16-year Salinas resident, Floyd was graduated from North Salinas High School and Hartnell College.

YOUNG see page B17



Dwight Hurst with one of the waterbeds in his 'kingdom'.

(Californian photos)



Butch Ariano prepares a picture for framing.

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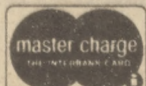
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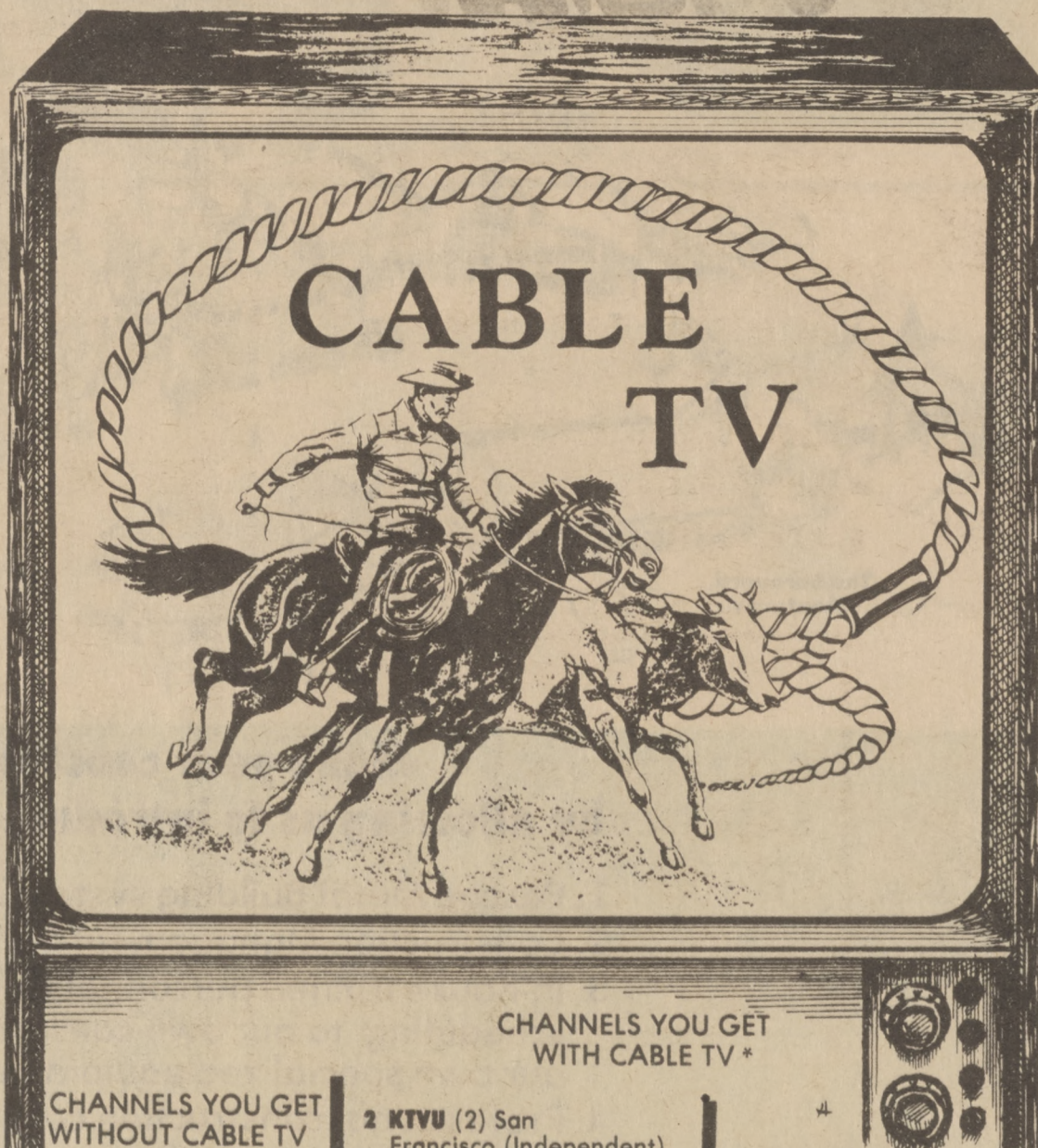
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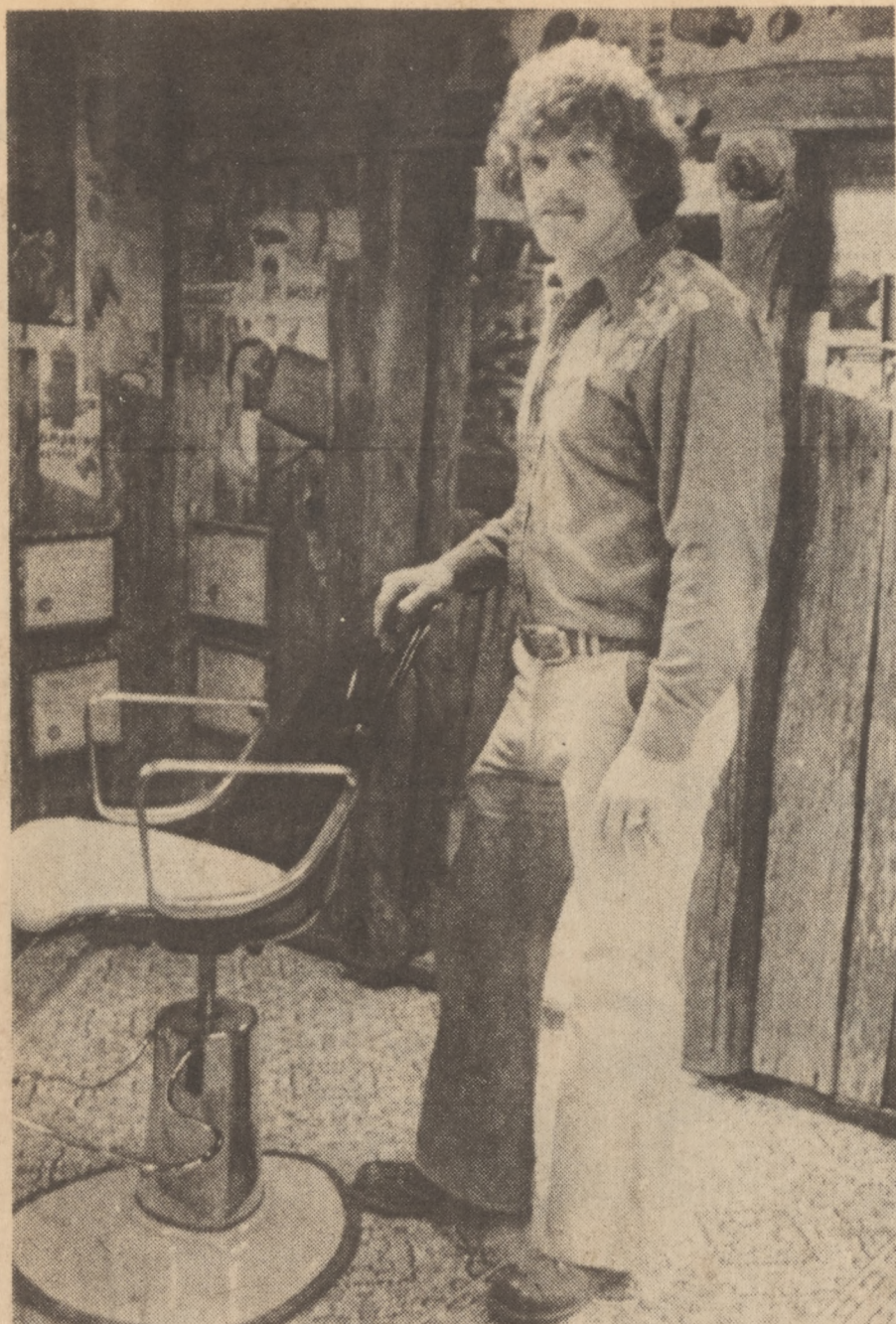
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David Haynes awaits the next customer.
(Californian photo)

Young merchants moving in

(Continued from page B16)

College. He and partner David Lobeck, 26, a chemist at the Spreckels sugar refinery, have been in business together for about 1½ years.

The two have known each other about three years. They met through the church they attend. Floyd staffs the store "99 per cent of the time."

The gift stall specializes in "wax, woods and wares" and that includes such items as candles, jewelry, music boxes and glassware.

"I was making some of the craft things (sold in the store) to begin with . . ." Floyd says.

Other items on sale are purchased by Floyd.

"I do my own buying in San Francisco and Los Angeles . . ." he says.

The business is beginning to pick up. "We're getting a clientele now . . . We're noticing repeat customers. That's growing all the time."

Liked Building

Floyd decided to locate the business in downtown Salinas because he liked the building.

"I like this building, the Off Main . . . the Old Town too . . . I thought it would catch on, which it has . . ."

OLDTOWN see page B18

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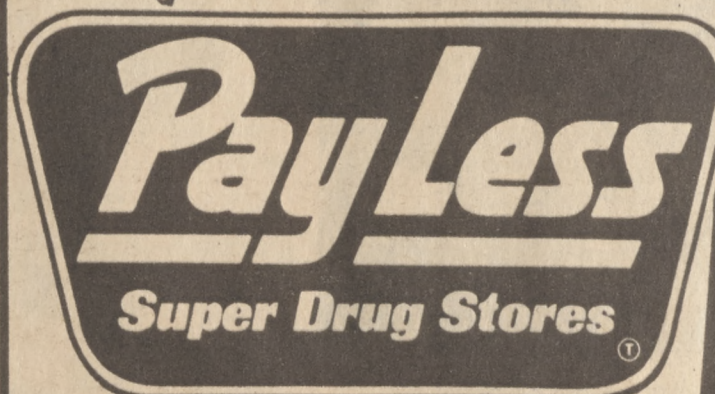
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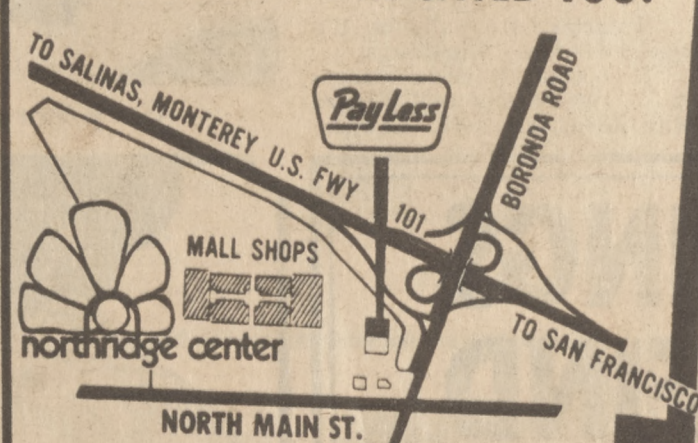
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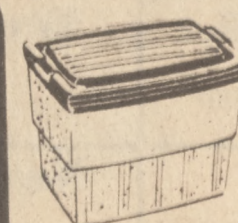
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Oldtown is attractive to some young merchants

(Continued from page B17)
 Gary Marsh, 33, is another of the young Off Main businessmen. Marsh is the owner of "The Shoe Store" which carries several lines of womens' shoes, sandals and boots, as well as assorted handbags.

Born and reared in Salinas, Marsh worked for Cinderella Carpets & Draperies for five years. He decided to open his own store "because I wanted to become self employed."

Marsh, who is married and has two children, says he decided to set up business in the Old Town area of Salinas because "this happened to be the only location in the area I wanted."

Last Chance

David Haynes, 29, owner of the House of David Natural Hair Care Center, 262 S. Main St., was going to leave Salinas before moving his business from the Alisal Shopping Center to the downtown area.

"I decided to give it (Salinas) one last chance..." he says. "I decided to come uptown so people would know me more..."

The move, so far, has been good to Haynes, who now plans to remain in Salinas.

Haynes and a staff of four, David Angulo, Marti Giles, Cindy Halterman and Dee Armstrong, specialize in the "natural hair care look."

Haynes began cutting hair six years ago. He began learning his trade in high school through the Alisal High School work experience program. He is a graduate of Wayne's College of Beauty.

The decor at the House of David is unique in itself. Motif is old barn wood and shake shingles, with old Salinas newspapers and antiques decorating walls.

Waterbeds

Dwight Hurst, owner of Waterbed Kingdom, 334 Monterey St., also finds the downtown Salinas area a good place in which to do business.

Hurst, 23, is a former newspaper reporter and photographer, and a graduate of Rick's College in Rexburg, Idaho. He managed a retail camera store in Modesto before coming to the Salinas area.



Roger Floyd stands by a line of gifts.

(Californian photos)

Hurst, who lives in Hollister, spent two years as a missionary with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Guatemala and El Salvador.

"Waterbeds are really fun. It's a good business," Hurst says.

"It's a good town to do business in... We've been real pleased with the response here," he adds.



Gary Marsh is surrounded by shoes in his Oldtown store.

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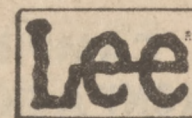
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Salinas homes like this one at 154 Central Ave. have rich histories and admired design. (Californian photo)

City's old homes are a rich resource

By KATHLEEN MAC DONALD
Californian Staff Writer

Salinas has a rich resource that is going untapped, says Monterey County historical coordinator Kent Seavey.

Seavey would like to see some of the city's Victorian homes restored to their original beauty, gracing the streets as they did when John Steinbeck was a child.

While there are not too many that would be considered great homes, he said, there are hundreds of smaller, interesting old homes that could be revived.

Seavey strides past streets lined with the old homes near downtown, many built around 1900, and throws out an impressive list of architectural styles that are represented.

Many are in disrepair and empty. Several, he says, have already met the wrecking ball.

There is hope, he says. "Some people are just beginning to acquire some of them and see the unique qualities in them."

He would like to see uses found for the homes and other old buildings to assure their continued existence. If families cannot afford to live in them, they can be used by businesses as offices, or restaurants, he believes.

One of the larger old homes is located at 154 Central Ave. It has a rich history. The current owners, however, were unwilling to talk about what their plans are for the house in the future.

It was designed by William Weeks, Seavey says, an architect who built many homes and buildings in Salinas and in central and northern California cities.

His style While the home is not officially listed as one of Week's, Seavey says, the architect's hand is obvious in the detailing of the house. He points to double and triple pillars around the porch, double sets of oval and round windows and the shingling on the upper portion of the house. The shingling curves around windows.

Seavey is not pleased with the recently applied paint job in which five major colors — deep blue, cream, light brown and gold tones were applied.

He would like to see the shingling left natural, covered only with redwood stain. The other parts of the house could be painted a traditional white or grey, he says.

Other Salinas longtimers express dismay at the brilliant color scheme too.

But Anton Canaletich, a color consultant from San Francisco who painted the exterior for the owners, thinks the paint job fits the house.

"This house was meant to say, 'Here I am,'" he said. The exterior details of the house were meant to

stand out, he says, and the painting he did accomplishes that. Every bit of gingerbread is clear and well-defined.

Wants controversy He wants the houses he paints to "be controversial." By that he means they should be looked at with interest, noticed, not ignored or overlooked.

When the old homes were built, Canaletich said, they were usually painted three colors. The traditional white came later, he contends.

He chose colors that were not among those used in the early 1900s, but they are being used frequently in San Francisco where Victorian homes are being bought and restored in a great flurry.

Canaletich does most of his work there. He believes that in the next three years, the "influence of San Francisco will be felt here. It is already being felt in Watsonville and in the Monterey Bay area. Salinas is dragging its feet."

In San Francisco, the house would be an "historical landmark" because of its unique characteristics, he said.

He is astounded at the mix of architectural styles represented on the

house. "Sometimes I look at it and think it's a monster and other times I look at it and see it as so interesting."

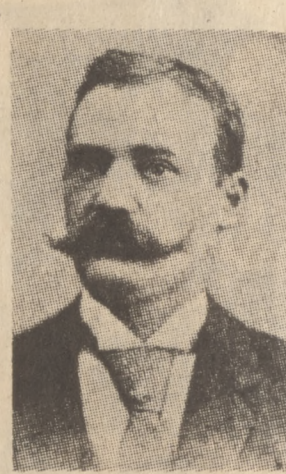
The house has a fascinating background. It is believed it was originally built about 1900 for Bradley V. Sargent, a Monterey County Superior Court Judge beginning in 1902. Before that Sargent was an attorney here.

From Jacks Sargent bought the land in 1895 from David Jacks, a county land baron who at the height of his career was the owner of most of the

Monterey Peninsula and sizable chunks of the Salinas Valley.

Jacks bought the land in 1882 and was the fourth owner with a recorded deed. Elisha Archer was the original subdivider in 1874.

Although Judge Sargent owned the property until 1918, there are records of a men's club meeting there after 1913. It was called the Frazz Club and, according to Velma Griffin, who lived in the house years later, the club was made up of pro-



B.V. Sargent

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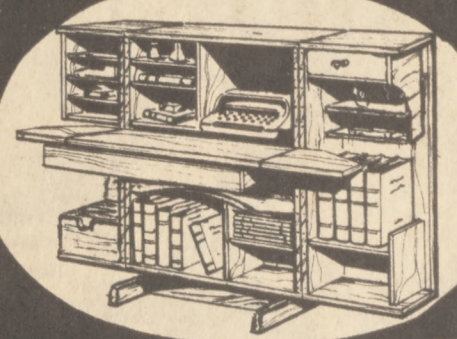
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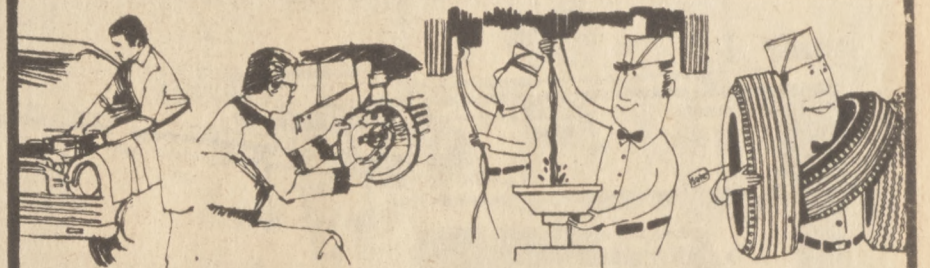
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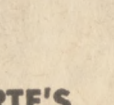
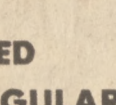
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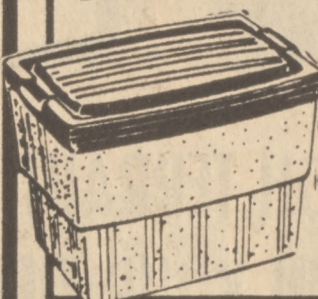
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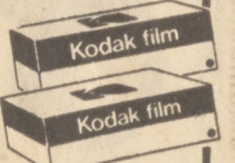
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Luscious grapes hang from Valley vines.
(Californian photos)

Grape boom has been corked but Valley's vintage matures

When they write the history of the wine industry in Monterey County, 1976 will probably go down as a year when the boom ended and maturity began.

Between 1970 and last year the great grape rush was on, and more than 34,000 acres were

planted to wine grapes in the Salinas Valley.

But there has been a shakeout in the industry, and in recent months some 2,500 acres of young, non-bearing vineyards have been abandoned or pulled out, some firms have gone

bankrupt and others have had to reorganize.

Monterey County growers also experienced trying weather conditions last year.

Nevertheless, despite untimely rain which punctuated a persistent drought, production is up.

"It's a safe prediction that more acres of Monterey County wine grapes will be harvested in 1977 than ever before," says Jerome J. Lohr, President of the Monterey Winegrowers Council. "For the next two years, young vines planted in the wine boom of the early 1970s will continue to reach bearing age, increasing the total crush. But the real news is not so much the quantity of grapes as the quality. In our short history as a wine growing region, we've learned that grapes grown in this unique area are outstanding among the classic wine grapes of the world."

Big money

Wine grapes were a \$8,839,000 item in Monterey County's 1976 agricultural budget. That's before they went into the bottle.

The grapes came from 17,079

bearing acres. When the other half of the land planted to vineyards starts bearing, the county will be among the nation's largest volume producers of varietal wines.

There are 22 varieties of wine grapes planted in Monterey County in acreages large enough to warrant separate listings in the agricultural commissioner's annual report. Cabernet Sauvignon, with 6,044 acres, leads the list. Next are Pinot Noir, 3,313; Zinfandel, 3,044; Pinot Chardonnay, 3,052 and Petit Sirah, 2,549.

Wine production is a growth industry nationwide, and other districts — notably the Napa Valley in California and the Finger Lakes of New York — have a long head start on Monterey County in terms of name recognition.

Hence local wine growers are emphasizing the distinctiveness of the county's wines.

'Different'
Winegrowers Council
See page B21

Where to taste the grape

Most of the wineries that turn the Monterey County grapes into fine wines welcome visitors throughout the year. The list below is a guide to them:

Paul Masson Champagne & Wine Cellars: Saratoga — daily 10-4. 408 257-7800.

Mirassou Vineyards: San Jose — Monday-Saturday 10-5, Sunday 12-4, closed major holidays. 408 374-4000.

Monterey Peninsula Winery: Monterey — Tasting, tours daily 10-3. 408 372-4949.

San Martin Vineyards Co.: San Martin — Winery tours by appointment only. 408 683-2672.

Turgeon & Lohr Winery: San Jose — daily 12-4. Closed major holidays. 408 292-1564.

The Monterey Vineyard: Gonzales — Tours daily 10-5. 408 675-2326.

Wente Bros.: Livermore — Monday-Saturday 9-5, Sunday 11-5. Closed major holidays. 415 447-3603.

Picnic facilities are available at Mirassou Vineyards and Wente Brothers.

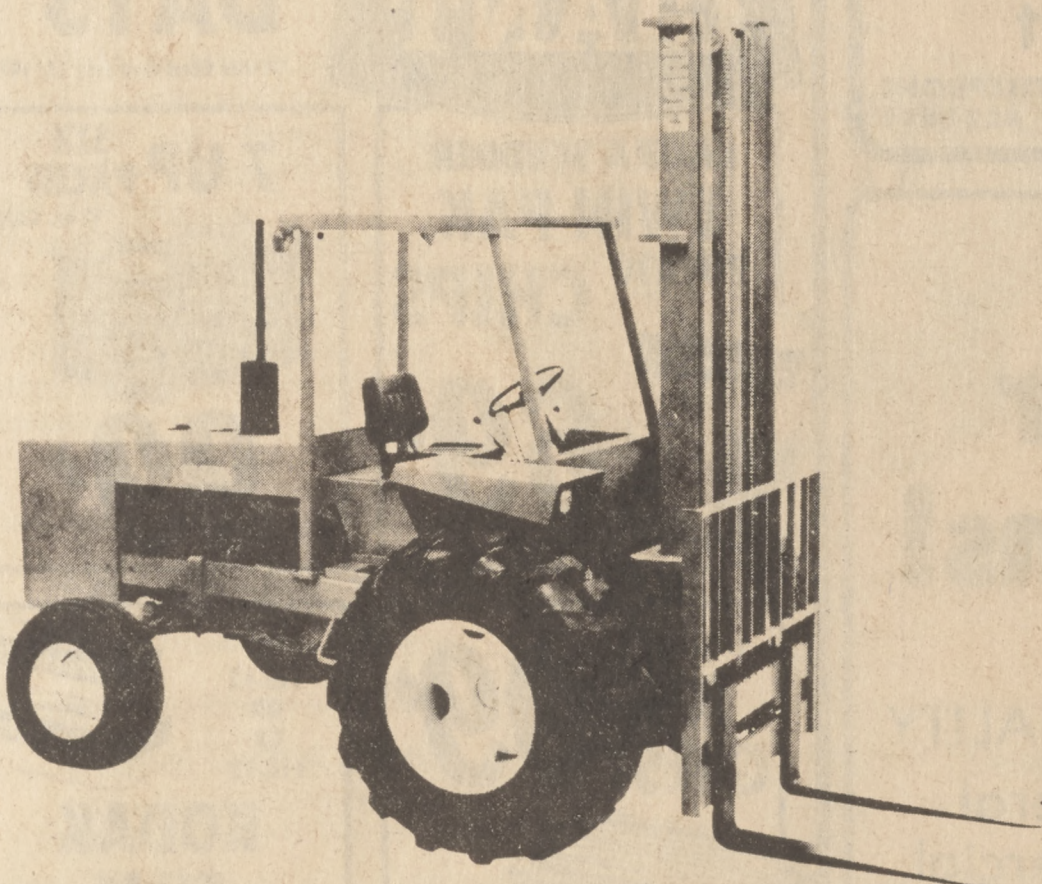


Harvesting machinery at Mirassou Vineyards ranch in Soledad picking Gewurtztraminer grapes.



Meter reads soil moisture at Monterey Vineyard.

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Chalone Vinyard, is one of many in Valley's foothills.
(Californian photo)

Winegrowers are confident

(Continued from page B20)

President Lohn puts it this way: "Monterey wines are clearly different from all the other wines of California. Just now discerning wine drinkers are beginning to change their long-held view that all California wines taste the same. The intense varietal character of our grapes and wines is convincing proof that our wines are sensationally different."

"Monterey wines are all top quality, but not copies of other top quality wines in the state, not like those of Napa or Sonoma or Livermore. The fruitiness that distinguishes them all has been most apparent, until now, in the delicate white wines such as Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Johannisburg Riesling and Chenin Blanc."

"But as the red wines age sufficiently to be released, wine enthusiasts are finding the same intense characteristics as appeared earlier in the whites. From now on, you'll be seeing Cabernet Sauvignon, Pinot Noir and Zinfandel, among others, carrying the Monterey appellation of origin on their labels."

While 1976 was a difficult growing year, some winemakers triumphed over adversity in the taste department, as a preview last spring demonstrated.

Mirassou Vineyards, which pioneered the Valley for fine wine production with its Mission Vineyard near Soledad, scored a

notable success with a Johannisburg Reisling, which was one of the stars of the preview.

And Monterey Vineyards has released two wines — a late picking Zinfandel and a Sauvignon Blanc dessert wine redolent of botrytis (noble rot) — that give promise of improving with age for more than a decade.

Confident

Monterey County winegrowers — who include some of the nation's major corporations, such as Southdown, Inc. — express confidence that their best quality wines are yet to come.

Lohn notes:

"The most mature red wines are obviously coming from the wineries which pioneered vineyard planting in Monterey County. Mirassou Vineyards is releasing a 1973 Cabernet Sauvignon now. Wente Bros. has a 1972 Pinot Noir on the market. Paul Masson has released several white wines with a

special Monterey label, but is not yet ready to release a red. San Martin Vineyards Company has produced an extremely fruity 1974 Cabernet Sauvignon from vineyards near King City.

"The grapes were the first crop from extensive plantings in that area. Turgeon and Lohr's 1975 Cabernet Sauvignon made from the first harvest of vineyards in Greenfield, though younger, shows the same intense flavor that characterizes the older wines."

Because of the Salinas Valley's exemplary water conservation practices, vineyards here are probably less affected by drought than those in other parts of the state.

Most of the vineyards employ controlled irrigation and can draw on the underground basin which is replenished during the driest seasons by percolation releases from San Antonio and Nacimiento dams.

The bay is a place for study

Monterey Bay is the site of some of the most intensive oceanographic study on the coasts of the United States.

There are no fewer than seven marine laboratories and stations in the area. These include: Moss Landing Marine Laboratories; the Coastal Marine Lab at the University of California, Santa

Cruz; the California Department of Fish and Game laboratories at Monterey and Granite Canyon; the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School; the National Marine Fisheries Service facility located at the Monterey-Salinas airport; and Hopkins Marine Station operated by Stanford University, the oldest marine laboratory on the West Coast.

Victorian homes a rich resource

(Continued from page B19)

day long. I wish we had never sold it."

They did, however, to F.J. Bernard and his wife, Mae, who owned it until 1968, when the current owners bought it.

Mrs. Griffin, the Bernards' daughter, also has pleasant memories of the house. She heard stories about the Frazz house and about a mysterious burial in the front yard.

Her mother was in love with the house, she said, and did quite a bit of remodeling. She added an arch where pillars had stood between the parlor and dining room and modernized the kitchen.

In 1918, Joe A. Guidotti bought the house and property and sold it the same year to Charles W. Johnson, according to the records at Western Title Insurance Company.

In 1920, George N. Cominos bought the house. It was the first home for newlyweds Helen and George, and Mrs. Cominos remembers the happy days spent there from 1920 to 1925.

During part of that time, a second Cominos family shared the house. "It was so big for us," Mrs. Cominos said.

Sold it

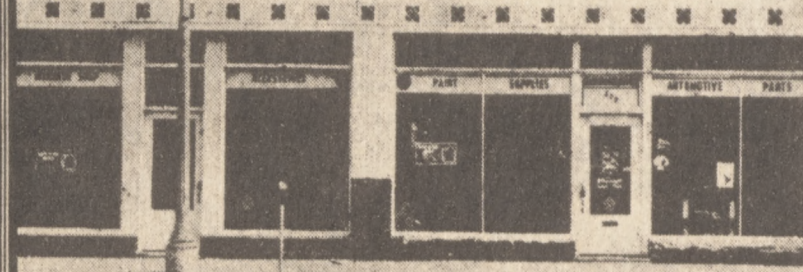
At the time she lived there, she said, "the house was in very good condition, but not up to date. There was a wood burning stove. The house was light and lively, the sun was all around it all

One of the most common bird species in the Monterey Bay area is the California gull.

By the same token, the meadow mouse is the most common rodent and is especially abundant in the artichoke fields in northern Monterey County. The mice feed on the roots and stalks of the artichoke plants and make their nests in the fields. When the fields are cleared to start the artichoke plants on a new growth cycle, the nests of the meadow mice are exposed.

Large flocks of California gulls arrive right behind the tractors to feed on the mice; to the advantage of the planters.

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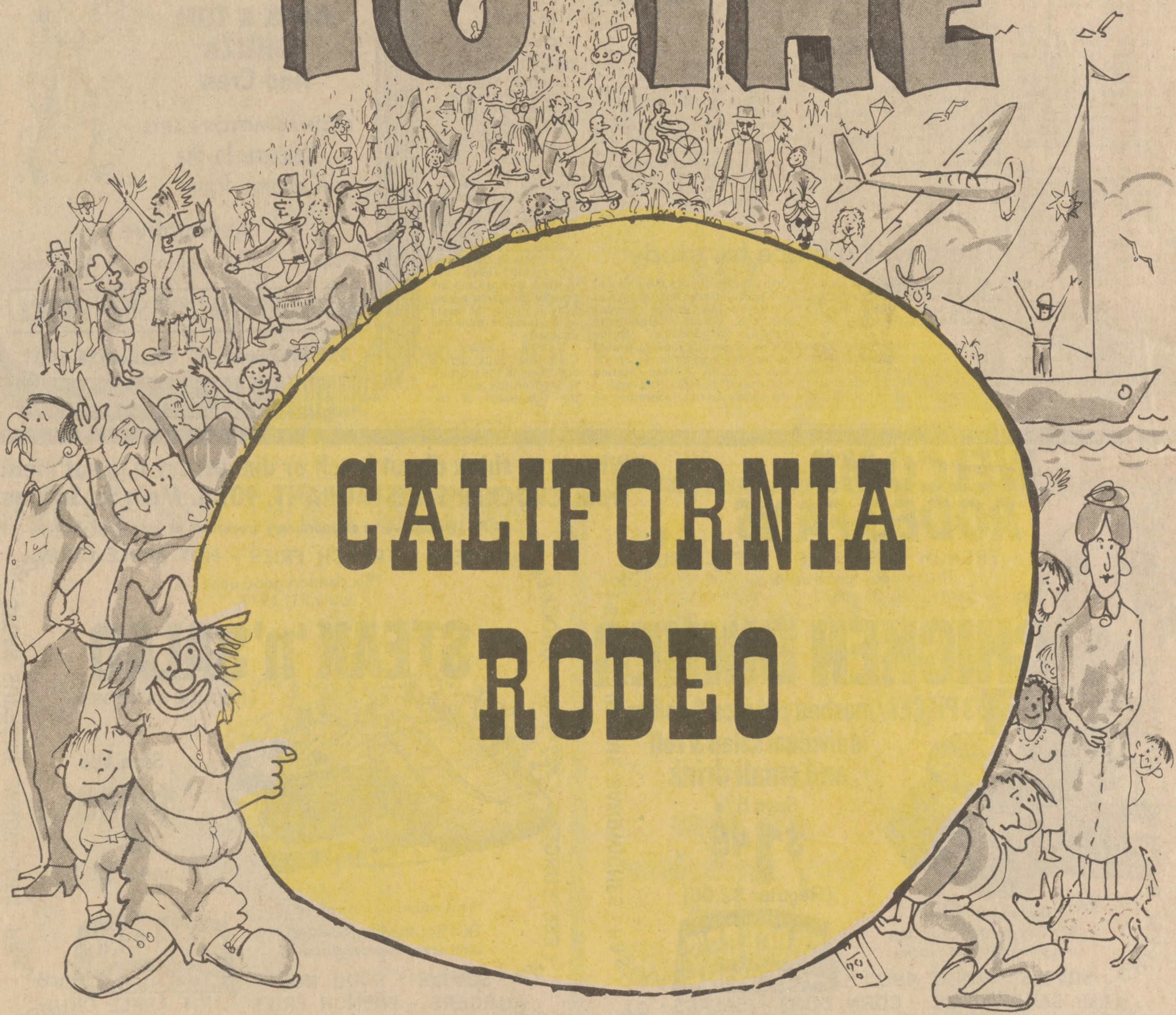
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